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Japan

Hills Rejects Plea From Tanabu on Rice Ban

OW0912002592 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Washington, Dec. 8 KYODO—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills on Tuesday brushed off a Japanese plea to keep its ban on rice imports, saying the United States has no interest in getting involved in the issue on a bilateral basis.

Hills outlined the U.S. position in a meeting with Masami Tanabu, Japanese agriculture minister, who came to Washington to put Japan's case on its farm policy.

In a statement issued by Hills' office before the meeting, Hills said the United States supports a proposal to convert all barriers on farm trade into tariffs as part of a comprehensive settlement of the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

"Comprehensive tariffication and many other objectives of the Dunkel text are not bilateral issues between the U.S. and Japan, but issues of multilateral interest that must be addressed in Geneva," Hills said in reference to the tariffication proposal made by General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director General Arthur Dunkel.

Hills refused to give further details after emerging from the hourlong meeting with Tanabu.

Acting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, who was also present at the meeting, said Tanabu outlined Japan's rice policy and maintained its stand on banning rice imports. "The Japanese stood firm in their position they held for a long period of time that rice is a very difficult issue in Japan," she said.

Tanabu went to the meeting with Hills shortly after arriving in Washington. He was scheduled to head for Brussels on Wednesday for talks with EC Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry.

Outlines U.S. Position

OW0912013892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0108 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Washington, Dec. 8 KYODO—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills on Tuesday brushed off a Japanese plea to keep its ban on rice imports, which an influential U.S. newspaper in Washington described as merely a "kabuki [traditional Japanese play with a major shift in position at the very end] plot."

Hills outlined the U.S. position in a meeting with Japanese Agriculture Minister Masami Tanabu, who came Washington to put Japan's case on its farm policy. She told him the United States has no interest to get involved on the issue in a bilateral manner.

Hills' office took the unusual step of releasing a statement on the meeting before it took place. In the statement, she said the United States supports a proposal to convert all barriers on farm trade into tariffs as part of a comprehensive settlement of the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

"Comprehensive tariffication and many other objectives of the Dunkel text are not bilateral issues between the U.S. and Japan, but issues of multilateral interest that must be addressed in Geneva," Hills said in reference to the tariffication proposal made by General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director General Arthur Dunkel.

Hills refused to give further details after emerging from the hourlong meeting with Tanabu.

She told reporters that her office had already issued a statement on the meeting and "you know exactly what I said."

Acting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, who attended the meeting, said Tanabu outlined Japan's rice policy and said it is maintaining its stand on banning rice imports.

Veneman said, "the Japanese stood firm in their position they held for a long period of time that rice is a very difficult issue in Japan."

A Japanese official who attended the meeting conceded that Tanabu had made little progress in his mission, saying the two sides "primarily reiterated their traditional positions."

Tanabu underscored the political sensitivity of the rice issue in Japan and told Hills that Japan plans to seek a modification of Dunkel's proposal through talks in Geneva, the official said.

Hills indicated that the United States would not back Japan's efforts to have rice made an exception in the proposed replacement of import barriers with tariffs, telling Tanabu that "it would be difficult to make changes" in the Dunkel proposal, the official said.

The meeting, which the Japanese official said took place in a friendly atmosphere, came on the same day that the WASHINGTON POST said that Japan was "grudgingly" moving toward ending its rice import ban and described Tanabu's visit as a "kabuki plot."

By sending Tanabu to Washington and Brussels, "Japanese leaders will make a grand show of clinging to their policy until the last possible minute, and behind the scenes they'll fight to soften the blow for the nation's politically powerful farmers...on rice imports," the newspaper said in a dispatch from Tokyo.

Tanabu, who is expected to step down as agriculture minister in an impending cabinet reshuffle, went straight to the meeting with Hills after arriving in Washington earlier in the day.

He was scheduled to head for Brussels on Wednesday for talks with EC Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry, and will return to Tokyo on Friday.

Kato Warns Against Trade Talks Hurried Solution

OW0912055892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, dec. 9 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Wednesday that negotiators should not rush to wrap up multilateral trade talks in Geneva, or the results will be unsatisfactory.

"Japan is not opposed to arriving at an agreement within the year, but we should avoid being in too much of a rush or the results will not bear much fruit," Kato said at a regular news conference.

The government spokesman made the remarks after U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills urged Japanese Farm Minister Masami Tanabu in Washington Tuesday to make a political decision on opening Japan's rice market.

Kato said Hills had merely reiterated the U.S. position on the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations being conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Tanabu is on a four-day trip to meet his counterparts in the U.S. and Brussels to explain Japan's opposition to a proposal before the round that would replace all non-tariff barriers with tariffs.

Japan wants to make an exception for rice to placate farmers, who are a main source of support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Farmers Protest Against Lifting of Rice Ban

OW0912083592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Sapporo, Dec. 9 KYODO—About 3,500 farmers flocked to the city of Sapporo on Wednesday to protest against the government's move to lift its long-standing ban on rice imports.

The farmers, gathering from all over Hokkaido, staged a three-kilometer demonstration march through the city's busy shopping area of Susukino to Sapporo station, with more than 20 tractors heading the procession.

Delivering a speech to the farmers, Sadao Fujino, head of the Hokuren Federation of Agriculture Cooperatives, said, "We cannot accept a tariffication scheme without concessions from other countries."

Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi, also present at the protest, said opening the rice market would "deal a grave blow to the agriculture of Hokkaido."

The farmers agreed to press the Diet to block any attempt to allow rice imports.

Now that the U.S. and the European Community (EC) have struck a deal on their row over farm subsidies to unblock the crucial global trade talks, Japan has come under strong pressure to open its heavily-protected rice market.

Despite the government's last-ditch efforts, including Farm Minister Masami Tanabu's current visit to Washington to promote Japan's rice interests, it seems that Japan might have to let in foreign rice to head off international criticism.

Russia Warned Against Establishing Kurils SEZ

OW0912054092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0515 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan warned Russia on Wednesday that bilateral relations could suffer if Moscow gives approval to a proposed special economic zone [SEZ] on an island chain off eastern Siberia that includes territories claimed by Japan.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Japan had made clear its views to Moscow via diplomatic channels. The proposal would allow local authorities to rent land on the Kuril islands for 99 years.

Kato said Japan was unable to confirm reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the decree the day before.

The INTERFAX News Agency said the decree aims at providing tax breaks and other incentives for foreign companies to invest in the Kuril chain, which Japan says includes four islands off its northernmost coast.

Japan says the islands are not part of the Kurils, which it relinquished after World War II.

Kato avoided comment on whether the decree would put a damper on Japan's invitation to Yeltsin to make an early visit here.

Last week Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa wrote Yeltsin urging him to reschedule a visit abruptly canceled in September.

Landing of U.S. Marines in Mogadishu Reported

OW0912055192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Mogadishu, Dec. 9 KYODO—U.S. Marines stormed into Somalia on Wednesday in a predawn landing operation to control armed bandits who have prevented international aid missions from feeding two million starving people.

An advance unit of the marines landed at 1 A.M. local time at a beach in the war-plagued capital of Mogadishu in the armed humanitarian mission code-named Operation Restore Hope.

A total of 1,800 marines participated in the initial phase of the mission backed by three U.S. battleships anchored off Mogadishu, the nation's biggest port and a chief gateway for supplies of western aid.

The three battleships are backed up by the U.S. aircraft carrier Ranger with 60 warplanes.

The troops ordered helicopters to the port and to the main airport, another gateway for Western aid supplies, which had been vacated by occupying Somali gunmen before the arrival of the marines.

Troops used amphibious assault ships to land at the port, where militiamen had been seizing Western aid supplies for several months.

The airport and port had been virtually shut down by the militias.

At 4:30 A.M., one of the three battleships came alongside a beach near the airport and discharged several armored personnel carriers onto the land.

The operation, under United Nations auspices and unanimously approved by the Security Council, includes 35,000 troops from nine countries. Some 28,000 of them are Americans.

It is the biggest such operation ever sanctioned by the United Nations, and political observers said it marks the beginning of an era in which the world body will use military force to resolve regional conflicts that have broken out since the end of the cold war era.

On December 5, the United Somali Congress (USC), Somalia's most heavily armed political group, ordered militias under its control not to open fire on landing American troops.

The USC split in mid-1991 into two major rival factions supporting Mogadishu's two major warlords, Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid and President Ali Mahdi Mohamed.

The two warlords pledged Tuesday to U.S. Special Emissary Robert Oakley that their troops would not shoot at American troops. Anarchy has prevailed in Somalia since USC guerrillas seized the capital and overthrew President Siad Barre in January 1991.

The U.S. Government earlier said that the U.S.-led multinational troops will seek to guarantee the safe delivery of relief aid to refugee camps, while trying to restore order in major cities.

It said the troops will withdraw from Somalia after restoring security and order throughout the country.

The military operation will be followed by a U.N. peacekeeping mission that will seek to rehabilitate a Somali police organization to maintain order, it said.

The United Nations initiated massive relief operations in March, but its operations have been frequently blocked by heavily armed Somali bandits and militias.

Kato: Monetary, Relief Aid to Somalia Considered

OW0912044892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Japan is considering a move to provide Somalia with medical assistance and refugee relief as well as making a financial contribution to the U.S.-led forces seeking to safeguard relief supplies and restore order in the East African nation, a top government spokesman said Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after U.S. Marines landed in Somalia, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said that it was still too early to discuss the amount of Japan's financial contribution to the U.N.-approved efforts.

The U.N. Security Council has begun deliberations over launching a fund to cover the costs of the operation, Kato said.

A Finance Ministry source said that Japan is considering a large payment to cover the costs of the operation, since it is unable to send soldiers.

Japan's parliament passed a controversial law in June allowing its Self-Defense Forces to join in U.N. Peacekeeping operations, but troops are prohibited from engaging in combat.

Japan's postwar Constitution bans the use of force to resolve international disputes.

Kato said that Japan would not restrict its financial contribution from being used to purchase weapons, as it did during the Persian Gulf war, because the purpose of the Somalia operation is humanitarian.

"Financial contributions do not amount to the use of force. There are not any constitutional problems. The international situation has changed and the case is different," he added.

The government's decision not to renew the restriction this time is based on expectations that the relief operations will be more closely directed by the U.N. than the U.S.-led multinational operations during the 1991 Gulf war, Kato said.

In that war, the U.N. authorized military force to oust Iraqi forces from Kuwait, but the U.S. took responsibility for all decisions affecting the Gulf operations.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution calling for more humanitarian aid to the country.

The resolution expressed hope for an early solution to the conflict and efforts by assisting nations.

It urged the Japanese Government to strengthen an emergency assistance package of medicine, food, material and funds from a viewpoint of humanitarian assistance.

A top Foreign Ministry official said he did not think Japan is being widely criticized abroad for only contributing to the international effort financially, as was the case during the Persian Gulf crisis.

Speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, he said the Japanese people should not be ashamed of cash-only assistance.

The official said, however, the final form of Japan's contribution is yet to be officially announced.

He said every country has its own unique circumstances which dictate the most appropriate way for it to participate.

Paper Says Duty Planned on PRC Steel Material

OW0912062192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0038 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The Japanese Government has informed China that some Chinese exporters selling a material used for steel production at below market prices in Japan are facing antidumping duties, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

It is the first time the Japanese Government has applied the country's antidumping legislation. The antidumping duty, which is expected to be up to 26 percent, will be formally decided early next year, the leading economic daily said.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Finance Ministry carried out the investigation after receiving a complaint from the Japan Ferro Alloy Association against China, Norway, and South Africa.

The ministries, the report said, discovered evidence of dumping by China which is affecting an already sluggish Japanese steel industry.

The investigation found that there had not been any dumping by Norway and South Africa, the paper said.

MITI Denies Newspaper's Report

OW0912062592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0426 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) denied Wednesday a report which said Tokyo will apply antidumping duties on some imports from China.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported that China and some Chinese exporters were selling ferrosilicon-manganese, a material used for steel production, at below market prices in Japan and as a result faced antidumping duties.

MITI officials called the report totally false. It would have been the first time for Japan to apply its antidumping legislation.

The officials said Japan had carried out an investigation after receiving a complaint from the Japan ferro alloy association against China, Norway and South Africa.

They said the government had extended until January its investigation into the dumping allegations.

The officials called the report groundless since Japan was just about to ask the three countries for additional data. MITI will decide what to do only after a thorough study of collected data, the officials said.

Hungarian Minister on Larger Tokyo Security Role

OW0912105492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1240 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Interview with visiting Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky by NHK reporter Asahina in Tokyo; date not given; from the "NHK News 21" program—live or recorded, in English with simultaneous Japanese translation in subtitles; from the English]

[Text] [Asahina] First, I would like to ask you about the economy. What do you think of today's situation in Hungary?

[Jeszenszky] I think Hungary is passing through a very important transition. It was relatively easy, although still hard work, to change our constitutional system, our political system. But, naturally, to change the economy—to do away with the result of 40 years of mismanagement, the (?command) economy, the legacy of communism not only in the environment, but in the mind—that is a very hard job.

But, at the same time, what we see is recovery...in fact, a boom in some other industries. So, if you come to the country, you will see less signs of depression, but more signs of this recovery.

[Asahina] Now, many European countries' economies are unstable because of nationalism. What kind of solution do you expect?

[Jeszenszky] Nationalism is partly an old phenomenon, but also I think it is a peculiar feature of communism. Many communist leaders at the end of this political and social system put on a kind of national color, national mantle, and they carry on their old practices of (?intelligence), of oppressing each other, oppressing your neighbors, oppressing people who can be oppressed... who are weak, and you can see this in the terrible conflict in the

former Yugoslavia. So there are many problems, but these problems can be dealt with by international action, and that is where I think we need a strong security system.

I think that the Japanese role in the UN, in the Security Council and in other UN bodies, and in other international bodies, should become stronger. We are aware of the limitations of Japanese involvement, but I think it is very proper that Japan should play a role more or less commensurate.

Watanabe Refuses To Answer 'Most' Questions

OW0812142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., refused to answer most questions Tuesday from a group of interviewers from the House of Councillors in connection with a money-and-mobster scandal, the group's leader said.

Kaname Endo, chairman of the upper house budget committee, told reporters after questioning Watanabe at the Tokyo detention house that Watanabe declined to respond to the questions.

Endo's 10-member parliamentary group visited Watanabe and questioned him for two hours behind closed doors about an illegal 500 million yen political donation he gave to Shin Kanemaru in 1990, and the alleged involvement of mobsters in suppressing a rightest campaign against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Kanemaru, a former Liberal Democratic Party vice president, resigned from the Diet in October because of public anger at the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

When he first testified under oath November 26, Watanabe refused to answer almost all the questions posed by an investigative team from the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Watanabe is in the detention center during his trial for aggravated breach of trust. He is accused of damaging Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, which has been absorbed by the Kyoto-based Sagawa Kyubin express parcel delivery group.

He is charged with causing nearly 100 billion yen in losses by channeling billions of yen in dubious loans and loan guarantees to several companies, including some with ties to a major crime syndicate.

In related action, sources said, prosecutors are considering questioning members of the Takeshita faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who are suspected of receiving some of the 500 million yen Kanemaru received before the February 1990 general election.

Shin Kanemaru has admitted receiving the 500 million yen from Watanabe and allegedly distributed the money to about 60 politicians, mostly Takeshita faction members.

In the House of Representatives, Japan's three main opposition parties submitted a motion calling on Takeshita to resign as a Diet member for his alleged role in the money-and-mobster scandal.

Takeshita, founder of what was once the largest LDP faction, declined comment on the nonbinding resolution. He has been criticized for allegedly using ties with mobsters in his ascent to power.

Former Sagawa Head on Long Ties With Takeshita

OW0912113292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0741 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—A disgraced businessman at the center of a scandal rocking the ruling party and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita have contradicted each other under oath about their relationship, according to testimony records released Wednesday.

Testifying at the Tokyo detention house on Tuesday, Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of the now-dismantled Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., said he became acquainted with Takeshita nearly a decade ago.

Shorthand records of his sworn testimony show Watanabe testified to Diet investigators that he became acquainted with Takeshita and fallen kingpin Shin Kanemaru through the late Parliamentarian Hiroshi Nakao.

He said he met Kanemaru for the first time about 10 years ago and Takeshita one or two years later.

Takeshita, who appeared before the Diet to testify as a sworn witness November 26 and Monday, said he came to know Watanabe a few years back and they met only a on couple of occasions.

Watanabe is on trial on a charge of aggravated breach of trust and has been held at the detention center since February.

Prosecutors say he was a go-between for senior figures in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and a gangster boss in quashing a rightist group's smear campaign that embarrassed Takeshita when he was seeking to become prime minister in 1987.

Watanabe has been indicted on suspicion of causing nearly 100 billion yen in losses by channeling billions of yen in dubious loans and loan guarantees to a number of concerns, including ones affiliated with a major crime syndicate.

Transport Minister Advocates Two-Party System

OW0812152792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1506 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda on Tuesday used the metaphor of the AIDS virus in describing the future of the ruling party's largest faction if it was not about to split.

"If left unchecked, the faction would get larger and the money (the faction members need) would be larger," he said in a speech.

"In five or six years, politics would fester and become like a (human) body carrying the AIDS virus," Okuda said.

Members of the faction loyal to former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, including Ozawa, have decided to break away and set up a new bloc named after Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata.

Okuda also said he advocates a two-party system in Japan, where the LDP has ruled continuously since 1955.

Draft Plan Urges Introducing Single-Seat System

OW0912111292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—A ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel is calling for the introduction of a single-seat electoral district system for the House of Representatives, according to a draft obtained Wednesday by KYODO News Service.

The draft electoral reform plan of the electoral system subcommittee of the party's political reform headquarters proposes a system under which only one parliamentarian is elected from each electoral district.

Under the current multiple-seat constituency system, candidates vie for three to five seats in each district.

The proposal is part of a set of recommendations on political reform the LDP plans to submit to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Miyazawa earlier urged the panel to develop major political reform measures in the wake of mounting public distrust of politics due to a series of scandals.

The panel said it recommends the single-seat system because it is "concise for the public" and that it "adheres to a democratic form of government and party politics."

It is also a "majority representation system" under which political parties can take power on the strength of their policies.

The panel recommends the number of lower house seats be reduced from the current 512 to 500 and that disparities in the value of votes among electoral districts be maintained at 2-to-1 or lower.

Cabinet Public Support Rate Falls to 16 Percent

OW0912052192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Public support for the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has plunged to 16.1 percent, about half the rate in a similar poll in October, according to a survey released Wednesday by KYODO News Service.

October's approval rate for the cabinet was 31.4 percent.

The latest figure is the second lowest cabinet approval rate in KYODO polls, following the 12.6 percent rate for the cabinet of Noboru Takeshita in March 1989.

The disapproval rating of the Miyazawa administration marked the second highest ever, jumping to 76.9 percent from 61.4 percent in October, according to the poll.

The sharp fall in support reflects mounting public distrust of the government in its handling of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal and political reform.

Miyazawa enjoyed his greatest support in December 1991, shortly after his cabinet was launched, when approval in the KYODO poll reached 50.9 percent. It dropped to a previous low of 24.1 percent in March.

KYODO interviewed 3,000 eligible voters nationwide December 5 and 6. Of them, 1,902 people, or 63.4 percent responded.

Of those who voiced approval for the Miyazawa cabinet, 38.3 percent said it was because of the absence of suitable alternatives, while 34.2 percent said so because they belong to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Among those who disapproved of the cabinet, 44.1 percent said the prime minister is not showing any leadership.

The support rate for the LDP slipped to 40.7 percent from 46.6 percent in the previous survey.

Support for the opposition parties, however, remained sluggish.

The largest opposition Social Democratic Party was supported by 14.4 percent of respondents, down from 15.2 percent in October.

The Japan New Party, which was established in July and won four seats in the House of Councillors elections, won approval from 5.8 percent of the respondents, up from 4.1 percent in the previous survey.

Komeito registered 3.2 percent, the Japanese Communist Party 2.1 percent, and the Democratic Socialist Party 2.2 percent.

The ratio of people refusing to support any political party leaped from 21.8 percent in October to 26.4 percent.

Miyazawa Decides To Reshuffle Cabinet 11 Dec

OW0912122892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa decided Wednesday to reshuffle the cabinet and top Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) posts Friday evening and hold the imperial attestation ceremony Saturday, government sources said Wednesday.

Miyazawa made the decision in a meeting with Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato and Deputy Chief Secretaries Motoji Kondo and Nobuo Ishihara, the sources said.

In the reshuffle, Miyazawa is highly likely to name Yohei Kono, former head of the Science and Technology Agency and member of the LDP faction led by Miyazawa, as chief cabinet secretary, they said.

Kono once left the party with five young LDP legislators who bolted the party during the Lockheed scandal in 1976 to form the New Liberal Club [NLC] . He rejoined the LDP in 1986 after the NLC was disbanded.

Kato may be tapped as LDP deputy secretary general, the sources said.

The reshuffle, the first since Miyazawa came to office in November 1991, is seen as a key yardstick of his earlier pledge to remove the ill effects of factionalism, political analysts said.

Cabinet and top LDP posts have always been distributed according to the relative strength of the LDP's factions.

The prime minister is considering appointing young politicians to cabinet posts, the sources said.

Parliamentarians such as Masayoshi Takemura, Yuya Niwa, Kaoru Yosano, Kishiro Nakamura, Hajime Funada, and Tadamori Oshima are being considered for cabinet posts, the sources said, but it is unclear who will get which portfolio.

LDP sources have earlier said Michio Watanabe will remain as deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

They also said Miyazawa is certain to appoint Seiroku Kajiyama as LDP secretary general, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka as chairman of the Executive Council, and Koko Sato as Policy Affairs Research Council chairman.

Cited as a candidate for finance minister is Yoshiro Mori, a top leader of the faction headed by Mitsuzuka. Mori currently serves as chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council.

As likely candidates for farm minister, the sources cited Kosuke Hori, former education minister, and Michihiko Kano, who once held the agriculture portfolio.

No women or people from the private sector are likely to be appointed as ministers, the sources said.

North Korea

O Chin-u, Choe Kwang, Others Attend LSWY Meeting

SK0512061492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyan December 5 (KCNA)—A meeting of the chairmen of primary organizations of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWY] of the companies of the Korean People's Army [KPA] was held at the February 8 House of Culture over December 3-4.

The meeting reviewed the successes and experiences attained in the past period in the work of the LSWY primary organizations of the companies of the Korean People's Army in accordance with the idea and policy of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] on the youth movement and discussed tasks to prepare the young soldiers into a youth vanguard boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader by effecting a new revolutionary turn in the work of the LSWY primary organizations of the companies i conformity with the development of the revolution.

Present at the meeting were Marshal O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice chairman of the National Defence Committee of the DPRK and member of the Party Central Military Commission and Minister of People's Armed Forces, Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, vice-chairman of the National Defence Committee of the DPRK, member of the Party Central Military Commission and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, KPA generals, officers concerned and chairmen of model LSWY primary organizaions of KPA companies.

At the meeting a congratulatory letter of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea to the participants of the meeting was conveyed by O Chin-u.

The letter highly appreciated the LSWY primary organizations of KPA companies which had performed with credit the noble mission assigned to them by organizing and mobilizing the young soldiers to safeguard and defend the party and the leader politically and ideologically with their own lives and play the role of te shock-brigade in thw struggle for implementing the party's military line, upholding its leaership.

The letter stressed that the LSWY organizations at all levels and the chairmen of the LSWY primary organizations of the companies of the People's Army should prepare the young soldiers into true revolutionary soldiers by establishing the party's leadership system more

firmly in the companies and strictly adhering to the idea and policy of the party on the youth movement.

A report was made by Yi Yong-son, chairman of the LSWY Committee of the Korean People's Army, which was followed by speeches.

After reviewing the achievements and experiences gained in the past period in the work of the companies' LSWY primary organizations true to the policy of the WPK on the youth movement, the reporter and the speakers stressed the need to actively contribute to strengthening the companies of the People's Army by bringing about a great revolutionary turn in the work of the LSWY in response to the demand for modelling the whole Army on the chuche idea.

Congratulatory groups of the officials of the Democratic Youth League during the fatherland liberation war, the Korean children's union and the Mangyongdae revolutionary school read their congratulatory messages to the meeting.

A letter of pledge to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, was adopted at the meeting.

O Chin-u Speaks

SK0712144092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Excerpt] A meeting of the chairmen of the primary organizations of the League of the Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] of the companies of the Korean People's Army [KPA] was held from 3 to 4 December at the 8 February House of Culture. At the meeting the results and experiences achieved in the past period of the work of the LSWYK of the KPA companies by upholding our party's ideology and policy on youth movement were summed up. Also, discussions were held on the task to prepare the youth and soldiers to become youth vanguards who are endlessly loyal to the party and leader by bringing about a new revolutionary turning point in the work of the LSWYK primary organizations of the companies, which is in conformity with the developing demand of revolution.

A portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, was placed in front of the meeting place with the party flag in its background. Slogans reading "Hurrah to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Hurrah to the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]!" were placed at the meeting place. At the background of the rostrum a model of Mt. Paektu which symbolizes our party's glorious revolutionary tradition, a model of the KPA cap badge, and a banner reading "Delegation of the chairmen of the primary organizations of the LSWYK of the companies of the KPA" were placed. The KPA military flag and other banners reading "Single-Hearted Unity", "Fatherland's Reunification", "Youth Vanguards" were also put in place. Other slogans such as "Let us become youth vanguards who advocate and defend in the forefront the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il," were put in place.

Marshal Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, member of the Party Central Military Commission, and minister of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces; Vice Marshal Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, member of the Party Central Military Commission, and chief of the General Staff of the KPA; officers and men of the KPA; concerned functionaries and chairmen of model LSWYK primary organizations of the companies participated in the meeting.

The meeting started with the singing of the General Kim Il-song song. The WPK Central Committee's congratulatory message to the participants of the meeting of the chairmen of the primary organizations of the LSWYK of the companies of the KPA was delivered by Comrade O Chin-u.

The congratulatory message pointed out that it sends enthusiastic congratulations to the participants of this meeting and chairmen of the primary organizations of the LSWYK of the companies of the whole army who highly upheld the party's ideology and policy on youth movement, strengthened the work of the primary LSWYK organizations to firmly maintain the companies as the strong point of the chucheization of the whole army and actively contributed to preparing all youth and soldiers to become true revolutionary fighters of the party.

It said that the primary LSWYK organizations of the companies of the People's Army should highly uphold the party's leadership to advocate and defend with their lives the party and the leader in a political and ideological way and organize and mobilize the youth and soldiers so that they can play the role of shock brigade in the struggle to fulfill the party's military line. It said that by doing so they honorably fulfilled the lofty mission entrusted to them. It continued to point out that the chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations of the companies of the People's Army actively contributed to strengthening and developing the primary LSWYK organizations into a revolutionary and militant youth organization that go through fire and water for the party and revolution and is overflowing with the lofty revolutionary spirit.

Chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations have established the party's leadership system in their companies. In accordance with the LSWYK organizations' duty as a political and ideological indoctrination organization, they have gone deep into the youth soldiers, vigorously conducting the indoctrination in loyalty and the chuche idea. By so doing, they have played a great role in firmly arming the companies with the chuche idea and in preparing them to be the iron-willed militant ranks which brim over with loyalty and filial duty.

Chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations have vigorously launched various masses' movements under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. They have made a collective innovation in the militant and political trainings. They have prepared the youth soldiers to be one-a-match-for-100 fighters and have led them to strengthen their posts and positions to be an impregnable fortress. They have organized and mobilized soldiers to demonstrate youthful resourcefulness and vigor in the socialist grand construction battle to realize the party's farsighted plan. They have contributed to implementing the noble duty of the People's Army as the defender of the fatherland and the creator of the people's happiness.

The WPK Central Committee highly evaluated that, by briskly conducting organizational and political work among the youth soldiers with loyalty to the party and the leader, chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies of the People's Army have effected a great success in bringing up youth soldiers to be youth vanguards with the Armed Forces.

The congratulatory message pointed out: The LSWYK organizations at every level in the People's Army and chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies are assigned the heavy task of further strengthening and developing the company to be the iron-willed militant ranks by bringing forth a new turn in the LSWYK work in accordance with the demand of the development of the revolution.

The congratulatory message stressed: The LSWYK organizations at every level in the People's Army and chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies should more firmly establish the party's leadership system in the companies, thoroughly carry out the party's ideology and policy on the youth movement and prepare the youth soldiers to be our party's genuine revolutionary fighters.

The congratulatory message pointed out: Chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies should keep hold on the ideological indoctrination work as the LSWYK's first task and vigorously carry it out. They should bring up the youth soldiers to be the party's genuine loyalist and filial sons who single-heartedly rally around the party and the leader and make it a rule of faith, conscience, morality, and life to do loyalty to the party and the leader. They should lead the youth soldiers to defend the socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses with their own lives.

The congratulatory message stressed: Chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies should educate all youth soldiers to live and struggle with the soldier's spirit of unhesitatingly jumping into fire and water according the supreme commander's order. They should strengthen and develop the companies to be harmonious and militant groups which firmly unite with the revolutionary camaraderie and enjoy the people's positive support and love.

The congratulatory message pointed out: Chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies should get the youth soldiers to devote their all energy and enthusiasm to complete the preparations for fight; prepare them to be one-a-match-for-100 fighters and prepare all squads to be heroic ones and all companies to be heroic ones.

The congratulatory message pointed out: The primary LSWYK organizations in the companies should arouse the youth soldiers to struggle to realize the party's plan to construct the grand socialism, fill the ranks with the revolutionary optimism and militant vigor, constantly strengthen the primary organizations to be powerful youth organizations and lead the party organizations and the LSWYK organizations at every level to properly help and guide chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations.

The congratulatory message noted: The LSWYK organizations in the People's Army and chairmen of the primary LSWYK organizations in the companies should brilliantly reward the party's trust and expectation by responsibly carrying out their assigned revolutionary duties while upholding the party's leadership. [passage omitted]

KCNA Reviews 9 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0912071692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 9 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, met and congratulated the participants in the meeting of the chairmen of primary organisations of the League of Socialist Working youth of companies of the Korean People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN prints an article about the loving care and solicitude of President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il to intellectuals.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON come out with editorials under the respective titles "The Meeting of Loyalty of Korean Intellectuals Vigorously Advancing Under the Leadership of the Party" and "The Meeting of Loyalty of Revolutionary Intellectuals Advancing Under the Uplifted Banner of Socialism" in connection with the Korean intellectuals meeting opening in Pyongyang today.

"It is consistent policy of our party to apply revolutionary mass line" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

Econews of the paper include reports about the second-stage construction of Tongil Street in Pyongyang.

Papers inform the readers that an Ethiopian transitional government delegation headed by Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin arrived here and the DPRK Government arranged a banquet for it.

Given in the press are a report on the arrival in Pyongyang of an international fact-finding group on the war-time crimes of old Japan and a statement issued by it.

Seen in the press is a letter the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) sent to U.N. secretary-general requesting him to cooperate in the repatriation of Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary condemning Kim Yong-sam, "a presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party," for resorting to the power-backed and money-backed "election" and articles exposing the DLP's crimes in leading the South Korean economy and people's living to bankruptcy and showing the miserable position of South Korean intellectuals.

Foreign press denounced the United States for putting on the brake in the reunification of Korea, according to the press.

Papers report that more than 150 foreign political parties signed the Pyongyang declaration "Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism" and manifested their firm resolution to implement it.

NODONG SINMUN condemns Japan for having endorsed "white paper on nuclear security" which makes purchase of reprocessing facilities and sea transport of plutonium a policy and rushing headlong to become a nuclear power.

Foreign news columns of the press include reports that General Secretary Jiang Zemin referred to the question of building a modernized army and a new government was formed in Angola.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article titled "Socialist Ideal Is Basis of Unity and Solidarity Among Revolutionary Parties."

NODONG SINMUN Denounces ROK Nuclear 'Development'

SK0612054392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0028 GMT 6 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 6 December commentary: "Nuclear Toadstool Which Grew Under Nuclear Umbrella"]

[Text] The South Korean National Democratic Front Central Committee recently made public the true aspects of the development of nuclear weapons in South Korea. As the result, the true colors of the South Korean authorities as nuclear fanatics have been fully exposed to the entire world.

Under the instigation of U.S. imperialists, all successive South Korean rulers frantically pushed ahead with nuclear armament beginning in the late sixties by assuming it as a means for realizing their ambition for achieving reunification through victory over communists.

Prompted by the Team Spirit joint military exercise—a nuclear preliminary war [haek yebi chonjaeng] which was conducted beginning in the late sixties—the development of nuclear weapons has been further accelerated in South Korea. South Korea had built a basic foundation on which it could manufacture experimental nuclear weapons as early as the late seventies.

With the beginning of the eighties, traitor Chon Tu-hwan, holding secret information to resume the development of nuclear weapons, hastily pushed ahead with nuclear development into the industrial stage using as an excuse its industrial purpose [sanobyongiran kusil mitte, kugosul kongopchok tangero chujinhagi wihae sodullossumyo]. Claiming that independent nuclear armament is necessary, the Sixth regime more undisguisedly pushed ahead with the nuclear weapons development policy.

The South Korean authorities have already produced highly enriched uranium and plutonium which are capable of manufacturing not a small number of nuclear bombs. They even smuggled enriched uranium and plutonium from a third country and stored them.

The amount of raw material stored for manufacturing nuclear bombs as of 1992 is enormous. It is capable of extracting 10 tons of plutonium.

All facts show that South Korea's nuclear armament emerged as today's reality, not as future feasibility.

The U.S. and the South Korean authorities have raved, even up to now, as if they are interested in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. The United States propagandized that it withdrew all of its nuclear weapons from South Korea while the person in authority in South Korea made public a so-called nuclear nonexistence declaration. He even signed the joint denuclearization declaration.

However, all this was nothing but a deceitful maneuver to mislead the public opinion at home and abroad and to conceal South Korea's nuclear armament.

As it was uncovered some time ago, the United States' nuclear weapons are still being stored in nuclear weapons underground storehouses secretly built in South Korea, and nuclear submarines are secretly coming to and leaving the nuclear submarine bases which were newly built and expanded.

As it was revealed this time, not only are there U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea but nuclear weapons are being developed by South Korea. It is accelerating the building of nuclear armaments. This means that a nuclear toadstool has grown under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

A long time ago, an anti-nuclear activist in Australia revealed that the development of nuclear weapons has been accelerated in South Korea. This is not an accident at all.

The prevailing situation evokes serious concerns and the indignation of all fellow countrymen and peaceloving people of the world. What is evem more shameless is the fact that while storing nuclear weapons and accelerating their development, the U.S. and South Korean authorities kicked off a commotion concerning nuclear suspicion of the North.

It has not been a long time since the South Korean puppet military leaders made such dangerous and absurd remarks on surprise war attacks on nuclear facilities in the North, military action, and so forth. They took a military step to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year with the excuse of suspicion on the development of nuclear weapons in the North.

While using gibberish as if the responsibility for delaying the North-South nuclear inspection rests on us, they are running amok with a plot to apply international pressure to us. This is a shameless and fishy act similar to that of a thief calling: Stop thief!

As we repeatedly have clarified, we do not possess nuclear weapons. We have neither the intention nor the ability to develop them. Because our nuclear policy is clean-handed, we accepted non-regular inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency on many occasions.

The commotion promoted by the South Korean ruling bunch while raving about suspicion of nuclear development by the North, delay of nuclear inspection and so forth, has the criminal purpose of legalizing the U.S. maneuver to make South Korea its nuclear base, the South Korean authorities' maneuver for nuclear armaments and the nuclear war provocation maneuvers waged by the United States and South Korea in collusion with each other.

The U.S. maneuvers to make South Korea a nuclear base and the South Korean authorities' nuclear development maneuvers are bringing darker clouds of nuclear war to the Korean peninsula. Even after the South Korean authorities adopted and effectuated the joint denuclearization declaration with us, they not only still keep the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, but are also running amok with the development of new nuclear weapons. This means that they are attempting to bring nuclear calamities to their fellow countrymen. This is an antinational traitorous act which can never be forgiven. This is a counterpeace crime gravely threatening peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the world.

If the U.S. and South Korean authorities provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, they cannot be seeking peace at all. The South Korean authorities should ponder this. They should suspend the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear war maneuvers. They should come to the road of implementing the joint denuclearization declaration. They should take steps to revoke the plan of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a nuclear war exercise which they decided to resume with the United States.

NODONG SINMUN Counters Kim Yong-sam Remarks on Nuclear Issue

SK0512083092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 5 Dec 92

["Malicious Utterances"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam, a "presidential candidate" of South Korea, turned up at a forum of the "Kwanhun club" recently. There he, reversing black and white, argued that nuclear inspection between the North and the South had been made impossible due to the North and "cooperation" of the United States, Japan and other countries would be requested and this problem would be taken even to an international organisation.

Branding this as malicious and disgusting remarks, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says

It is entirely due to the South Korean authorities who are dead set against an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea that the problem of nuclear inspection has not yet been resolved. The words of Kim Yong-sam prove that he is tied up with the South Korean military fascist forces which are trying to bar an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea, leave South Korea a nuclear outpost of the United States and gratify the desire for "reunification by prevailing over communism" through the provocation of a nuclear war against fellow countrymen in league with oustside forces. This vividly revealed once again the ugly color of Kim Yong-sam, a political mountebank, who made "a political marriage" with the power of dictatorship against the people's cause of democratisation to satisfy his greed for power.

It is, no doubt, because he is a traitor who has been trained and is manipulated by his American patron that he took issue with our fictitious "nuclear problem" and said he would "resolve" it in reliance upon outside forces. He is now getting more zealous in praising the United States and defending its nuclear war moves. This intimates that he is trying to seat himself in the "presidential" chair by currying favor with the United States and the present ruler. Kim Yong-sam would be well advised to behave prudently.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

SK0912004392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2225 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Ethiopian transitional government led by Foreign Minister Mesfin Seyoum arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, officials concerned and Ethiopian ambassador to Korea Fantahun Haile Mikael.

Foreign diplomatic envoys here were also present.

Yang Hyong-sop Sends Message to Leader of Cuban Assembly

SK0512075092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly sent a congratulatory message to Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba, on the recent adoption by an overwhelming majority of a resolution on terminating the U.S. economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba at the U.N. General Assembly.

The adoption of the resolution is a great victory of the Cuban people in the struggle to smash the U.S. imperialists' blockade policy against Cuba and defend the sovereignty of the country and the socialist cause, the message noted, adding that this shows no force can block the Cuban people from advancing under the banner of socialism.

The message expressed the belief that the Cuban people would successfully smash the U.S. imperialists' manoeuvres of aggression, closely united around the Communist Party of Cuba headed by respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, and manifested firm solidarity with the Cuban people's struggle.

KPA Friendship Delegation Meets PRC National Defense Chief

SK0412022192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Qin Jiwei, state councilor of the State Council and minister of national defense of China, met a Korean People's Army [KPA] friendship visiting group led by KPA General (Chon Che-son), now visiting China, on 1 December at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

At the meeting Comrade Qin Jiwei said that the militant friendship forged in blood between the peoples and armies of the two countries will be invariable under any circumstances.

He wished the Korean people and solideirs of the People's Army a great success in socialist construction and in their struggle for national reunification.

Present at the meeting were Xu Huizi, deputy chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and Chu Chang-chun, our ambassador to China.

NODONG SINMUN Asserts Fidelity to Socialism, Pyongyang Declaration

SK0412120292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 4 Dec 92

["Pyongyang Declaration Is Common Action Program for World's Revolutionary Parties"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—If the socialist movement is to be rebuilt and the cause of socialism be led forward, it is necessary for the revolutionary parties all over the world to adopt the Pyongyang declaration as their common action programme.

NODONG SINMUN stresses this in a by-lined article today.

It says:

The declaration adopted in Pyongyang in April confirms that socialism is the ideal of mankind and a genuine people's society, [word indistinct] representing the future of mankind.

The declaration is the action programme common to the revolutionary parties because the socialist idea laid down in it reflects the aspirations and desire of progressive mankind.

The socialist idea is the universal idea of mankind. It is not only the idea of class emancipation but also the idea of national and human liberation reflecting the idea of all nations and whole mankind for independence. The course of the development of history shows that the idea of socialism is just and socialism is quite superior to capitalism.

However, the imperialists and reactionaries claim that the orientation of the development of history has changed with the setback of socialism in some countries. They argue that the socialist idea is wrong and it was a mistake to have carried out the socialist revolution itself. This is a cock-and-bull story intented to stifle socialism and beautify capitalism.

Since the publication of the declaration more than 150 revolutionary and progressive parties the world over have signed it. This tells that the world's revolutionary people ardently sympathize with it.

The Pyongyang declaration is evoking an ever broader response from among the world public with each passing day.

It is an irresistible trend of history that mankind is advancing towards socialism.

If the cause of socialism is to be defended and led ahead, it is necessary, above all, for the world's revolutionary parties to firmly adhere to independence, build up their internal forces and defend the revolutionary principle and the banner of socialism in any circumstances.

An important guarantee for the victory of the cause of socialism lies in strengthening international unity.

When the revolutionary parties conduct their activities with the declaration as their common action programme they can strengthen the international unity and solidarity based on the common ideology and accelerate the cause of socialism.

The Korean people will dynamically advance towards the victory of the cause of socialism, further strengthening the international unity and solidarity with the revolutionary parties and peoples of the world under the banner of the Pyongyang declaration.

South Korea

Russian Journalist Says KAL Debris Taken to Moscow in 1983

SK0912073892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0708 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union filled seven trucks with wreckage from KAL flight 007 and personal effects of the 269 victims, a Russian journalist said Tuesday. The military authorities made a list of everything they found, but it is still secret, Andrey Illeshu [name as received], deputy editor of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, told YONHAP.

Illeshu, noted for an in-depth story two years ago on the 1983 downing of KAL 007, claimed to have obtained a copy of the 10-page list from a high-ranking intelligence source and said that he would soon reveal it. Most of the debris was from the fuselage, but there was also luggage, personal effects and letters, he said. It was classified and then taken to Moscow, where the list was compiled, but Illeshu said he doesn't know where the debris is now.

Moscow has never mentioned the existence of the wreckage and personal items. If Moscow still had them, he said, they should be handed over to the bereaved families.

KAL-007 was shot down by a Soviet fighter over Sakhalin in September 1983. No one survived.

ICAO To Deliver KAL Tapes to ROK After Deciphering

SK0912111892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1110 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Moscow, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—Delegates from Korea and three other countries related to the shooting down of a KAL airliner over Sakhalin in 1983, said Wednesday after their two-day meeting here that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will in several days assume the duty of conducting an independent and fair investigation of the KAL incident.

In a joint statement, delegates from South Korea, Russia, the United States and Japan said they had decided to ask the ICAO to take charge of a probe into the shooting down of the KAL plane.

The statement said the meeting decided to turn all relevant materials being held by the four countries, including cockpit voice record and flight data record contained in the black box of the downed plane, over to the ICAO on the assumption that the ICAO would agree to conduct the investigation.

The statement said that as soon as the ICAO decides to accept the duty, CVR and FDR tapes would begin to be deciphered.

After the deciphering, the statement said, the original tapes would be kept at the ICAO headquarters and a final report on investigation will be furnished to South Korea.

The joint statement further said that to resolve all humanitarian issues related to the tragedy of the KAL plane, the governments of the four countries had decided to hold a meeting in Moscow late next January with the participation of representatives of the bereaved families of KAL vicitims.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Hong Sun-yong, South Korea's chief delegate to the meeting, said he expects the ICAO will decide at a special meeting next week to accept the investigation duty.

Russian Envoy Discusses Participation in Taejon Expo

SK0912064392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Dec 92 p 8

[Interview with Russian Ambassador to Korea Alexandr N. Panov by KOREA HERALD business editor Chong Pong-uk; date and place not given]

[Text] With rapid economic growth in recent years, the Korean people are now challenging the world with the Taejon International Exposition, the first to be held in a newly industrializing country, says Russian Ambassador to Korea Alexandr N. Panov.

In an interview with THE KOREA HERALD, the Russian diplomat said, "Nobody in the world would have believed that such a huge and important international event might be staged" here.

For this reason, he noted, the theme of the Taejon Expo—"The Challenge of a New Road to Development"—is highly symbolic.

Here are questions and answers on the Russian participation in the Taejon Expo:

Question: What technologies will your country demonstrate at the Expo?

Answer: One of the main objectives of Russia's participation in the Taejon Expo is, on the one hand, to expose its

ability to contribute to the universal prosperity of the mankind, and on the other, to show its achievements so as to invite other nations for mutually beneficial cooperation.

It is well known that in previous days our high-tech was concentrated in the military-industrial complex which is being converted now. So, the conversion technologies will be demonstrated. Among others I can mention aerocosmic and laser technologies, new and supersolid materials, composits and biotechnology.

Q: What is your view on the significance of the Taejon Expo?

A: One of the most noteworthy features of the forthcoming Expo is the fact that it is to be hosted by a newly industrializing country, that is, by Korea. Nobody in the world could have ever believed, even 20 years ago, that such a huge and important international event might be held here.

But Koreans have managed to advance rapidly and to challenge the world. In this respect, I think, the theme of the Expo '93 is very symbolic—"The Challenge of a New Road to Development." It is also worthwhile to mention that Expo '93 marks a century since Korea first participated in the Chicago Exposition in the United States.

Q: As many as 94 countries have declared their participation in the Taejon event. What is your view of this development?

A: An event like Expo is primarily aimed at getting countries and peoples together. Nations need to be closer to each other, gradually dismantling the barriers separating them. Each country will exhibit their most advanced and sophisticated technologies and merchandise, thus promoting the progress of mankind.

The fact that 94 countries have already declared their participation in the Taejon Expo reveals their aspirations for mutual contact. Besides, it reveals the respect the host country, that is Korea, enjoys in the world community.

Q: Trade is one of the most important sectors of cooperation between Korea and your country in the future. Can you talk about short-term and long-term prospects for trade and other business ties between Seoul and Moscow?

A: First of all, I should say that my country is far from being satisfied with the scope of our economic relations. It is too small from the viewpoint of the potential. I think that we are only at the beginning of mutually beneficial economic ties.

Russia is a limitless market for Korean goods and has a lot of things to export to Korea. Meanwhile, Korean companies seem to be hesitating to actively enter the Russian market. To a certain extent, this can be understood: Russia is a bit risky today, but profits will come tomorrow. That is the far-sighted look at our bilateral cooperation.

Q: What can be the role of your country in exploring economic relations between the two Koreas?

A: The former Soviet Union had very close economic relations with North Korea and contributed a lot to its industrial development. For instance, we imported up to 70 percent of our magnisite clinker, and 25 percent of all car batteries from North Korea. There are plants that were built on a buy-back basis, but they are not functioning now, being obsolete. If South Korea can reconstruct them we might have cooperation on a trilateral basis. We can also cooperate on the same basis in communication. In this case Seoul might have railway access to Europe. A big project is awaiting us in connection with a gas pipe-line which will go from Yakut to South Korea through North Korea.

So our country is able to participate directly in economic cooperation between the two Koreas.

Reportage on Probe of Hyundai, UPP, DP

Prime Minister Interviewed

SK0912125392 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1240 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Interview with ROK Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong, at the Unified Government Building in Seoul, by Korea Broadcasting System anchorman Yu Kun-chan from the KBS studio—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Yu Kun-chan] Some people contend that the on-going investigation of the Hyundai Business Group companies by the prosecution and police is partial. The Hyundai Business Group and the United People's Party [UPP] said: It is a fact that some UPP members violated the election laws. However, the laws were applied inappropriately. This truly is an example of the use of government power in the election.

What do you think of this view of Hyundai and the UPP?

[Hyon Sung-chong] I think that the practice of the use of government power in elections has disappeared completely. You have said that Hyundai admitted that it violated the election laws. Hyundai has helped the UPP by using its organizations, manpower, and funds. This clearly is a violation of the law. It is a matter of course that a violation of the law is punished. I think the Hyundai and UPP people allege that the investigation is partial because they think that violations involving parties other than the UPP have not been investigated sufficiently. This may have been caused by a difference in views.

The government has not assumed an unfair attitude of favoring some parties and suppressing other parties. Assuming such an attitude runs counter to my conviction. Investigations may be insufficient at times because of various legal constraints. However, investigation authorities are making efforts to guarantee impartiality.

[Yu] I heard that the government's investigation started on the National Alliance for Democracy and National Reunification, a dissident group that recently declared a policy-based alliance with the Democratic Party [DP]. Would you elaborate on the charges for the National Alliance?

[Hyon] I will not elaborate on the charges for the National Alliance. Rather, I will tell you this: The Central Election Management Committee gave a warning to the National Alliance for its activities. In connection with this, the government applied to the court for a warrant of search and seizure. And, the court issued a warrant of search and seizure. I think this fully answers your question. [passage omitted]

[Yu] Only 10 days are left before the presidential election. The election campaign will surely be further heated, and, I think the remaining 10 days will be very important in fairly holding the election. Do you have any specific plan for a fair election?

[Hyon] I think that consistency in our attitude is very important. No matter how difficult it may be, I will work based on my principles on a fair election. I again say that any parties, any candidates, or any election campaigners will be dealt with on legal terms if they violate the law.

Police Seek Hyundai Officials

SK0912095192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0820 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 9 (YONHAP)—The police, having confirmed that Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. gave money to the United People's Party [UPP], are looking for company and party officials whom they wish to question.

The National Police Administration delivered a letter to UPP headquarters Wednesday requesting that Sin Hyon-il, chief of the party's provincial organization affairs office, answer questions regarding the donations. Sin removed 200 million won (255,000 U.S. dollars) from a safety deposit box registered to Hyundai. The police said that they had confirmed that Sin took the money by examining payment slips at the Shinhan Bank's Chongno branch.

Rather than risk a political incident by detaining Sin, who is on UPP presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong's campaign staff, the police have asked him to cooperate voluntarily. In addition, they have launched a manhunt for Chang Pyong-su, executive director of the Hyundai subsidiary. Chang is suspected of signing slips that detail payments to the UPP.

A senior police officer, who asked not to be identified, said he thought the missing Hyundai officials were hiding in UPP headquarters in downtown Seoul, but police were afraid to enter the building in case it was seen as a political action. The officer said that detectives had been unable to find more secret funds despite intensive scrutiny of checks issued by the Koram bank.

The company converted 33.7 billion won worth of checks into 1 million and 100,000 won checks at Hanil Bank's Chongno branch and other banks. The police, with the help of the office of bank supervision, are trying to locate the checks, none of which has been returned to the banks.

Meanwhile, police sent to the prosecution all documents on three officials of Hyundai Motor Service Co. suspected of providing some 3,400 voters with money and tours.

Official's Departure Ban Sought

SK0712131792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1044 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—The National Police Administration asked the Justice Ministry Monday to ban 16 people including Choe Su-il, president of the Hyundai Heavy Industries, who is at large on suspicion of illegally providing the United People's Party (UPP) with tens of billions of won, from leaving Korea.

The banned also include Yi Pyong-kyu, special assistant to UPP president Chong Chu-yong and founder of the Hyundai business group, and Chang Pyong-su, executive director of the company, who have been wanted on similar suspicion.

Meanwhile, police are investigating the flow of money among the affiliates of the group under judgment that the group might make a vast amount of what they call "secret funds" for Chong in the presidential race.

Probe Emphasized

SK0712033092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—Controversy over plutocratic campaigning continued to heat up Monday as more evidence of the Hyundai group's monetary and manpower support for presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong surfaced over the weekend.

The government, which says it has obtained firm evidence that Chong received campaign funds from the Hyundai group, is expected to tighten the reins while Chong's United People's Party [UPP] has cried foul, accusing the government of trying to interfere in the presidential election campaign.

The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], meanwhile, has refrained from making any strong comment on the government's investigation into the Hyundai group.

But the Democratic Party, which could benefit from the current controversy over corrupt campaign practices, criticized both the DLP and the UPP.

The Democratic Party said the government crackdown on the UPP was aimed at protecting the pro-government candidate, meaning Kim Yong-sam, and therefore it could not but question the "neutrality" of President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong's cabinet.

Earlier, the prosecutor's office and police confirmed that Hyundai Wood and Industry Co. had mobilized its employees to urge voters to join Chong's UPP.

The prosecution arrested Um Yong-ki, 52, president, Chong Un-hak, 56, vice president, and Choe Kap-sun, 49, executive director of Hyundai Wood and Industry, Sunday on charges of violating the presidential election law.

The prosecution and police were also looking for Choe Su-il, president of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., and six other company and UPP officials after they found a memo that they say proves that the company funneled 10 billion won to Chong Chu-yong.

The money went to Chong from the Chongno branch of Shinhan Bank, where the authorities say they found the memo along with another 12.4 billion won stashed away for Chong and his party.

They say that they suspect that Hyundai's 31 group companies have all rendered monetary as well as manpower support for Chong in his efforts to become the nation's president.

They believe that the companies gave the UPP more than the 33.89 billion won that a clerk of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. has alleged has gone to the UPP.

The amount of money so far found to have gone to the UPP or to have been deposited in Shinhan Bank by Hyundai Heavy Industries as excess funds is 26.84 billion won, officials say. Of the total, the money that went to the UPP amounted to 12.1 billion won as shown in the memo and 1.33 billion won was donated to orphanages and nursing homes, they say.

The office of bank supervision is checking the whereabouts of 7.05 billion won out of the 33.89 billion won the clerk, Chong Yun-ok, 27, said Hyundai Heavy Industries took out, the officials say.

DP, UPP Cite 'Political Oppression'

SK0712082192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0706 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—The main opposition parties reacted sharply Monday against the government's investigation into the Hyundai Business Group's monetary and manpower support for the United People's Party [UPP] and into the country's largest dissident organization.

The Democratic Party [DP] and UPP branded the government actions "clear political oppression" and official involvement in the presidential election campaign, and said they were aimed at helping elect pro-government candidate Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party.

The DP and UPP are to jointly demand a plenary session of the National Assembly to discuss the "neutrality" of Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong's cabinet and official interference in the election campaign.

Hyon denied the opposition's allegations and said that the government was not undertaking any unfair investigation of the Hyundai Group.

The prosecutor's office and the police have arrested Um Yong-ki, president of Hyundai Wood and Industry Co., and two other company officials on charges of violating the presidential election law by mobilizing company employees to campaign for Chong Chu-yong, the UPP's presidential candidate.

The prosecution was expected Monday to seek arrest warrants for Yi Pyong-kyu, special assistant to Chong Chu-yong, and Choe Su-il, president of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., and one other executive of the company for funneling 10 billion won from a secret company fund to Chong Chu-yong, founder of the group.

Authorities also raided the office of the largest dissident group, Chonguk Yonhap, or the National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification, Sunday night. It was suspected of distributing leaflets attacking Kim Yong-sam.

Kim Yong-ku, secretary-general of the DLP, said a judicial investigation had clearly proved that Hyundai Heavy Industries had provided the UPP with 10 billion won from its secret fund.

The UPP's denial and "unjustifiable reaction" to the official investigation amounted to defamation of "the neutral cabinet," Kim said, demanding that the UPP apologize to the nation for its plutocratic election campaign and wage a clean campaign for the rest of the way.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said the Democratic Party could not claim that the government had interfered in the campaign by investigating Chonguk Yonhap because the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) had ruled that any support of the Democratic Party by Chonguk was illegal.

Pak demanded that the Democratic Party stop its illegal campaigning "using the radical dissident group."

Kim Tae-chung, presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, said that, judging by a series of government actions in recent days, he believed that President No Tae-u had abandoned his "neutrality."

If President No still had the intention of remaining neutral, he should also undertake an investigation into the vote-buying activities of the democratic alpine club and other private organizations that were supporting Kim Yong-sam with money and manpower, Kim Tae-chung said.

Kim also warned that he and his party might have to make a "grave decision" if the government continued to oppress opposition parties under the pretext of controlling corrupt and illegal campaign practices.

The decision would depend on the outcome of visits by the party's senior officials to President No and Prime Minister Hyon, Kim Tae- chung said.

The United People's Party, meanwhile, held a party election management committee meeting Monday and decided to convene an emergency conference of its chiefs of local chapters to work out measures against the government action, which, it said, had lost all credibility of being "a neutral cabinet."

In addition, the UPP decided to hold a mass rally in Yoido, western Seoul, Saturday to condemn the government's involvement in election campaigns.

In a statement, UPP spokesman Pyon Chong-il charged that the Hyon cabinet was exerting "unprecedented" oppression against the UPP.

"The Hyon cabinet will run into serious national resistance unless it regains its rationality and returns to its original position of neutrality," Pyon said.

If the government continued to persecute opposition parties, Pyon said, the UPP would issue "an important declaration" at Saturday's mass rally in Yoido.

Prosecutors Search Offices of Dissident Group

SK0712010392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0037 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—Investigators from the Seoul district prosecution searched the offices of South Korea's leading dissident group, Chonguk Yonhap, late Sunday for evidence of illegal campaigning.

Kwon Chong-tae, a co-chairman of Chonguk (the National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification), and other senior officials face prosecution if evidence of illegal activities is found. A prosecution source said the search was made because Chonguk was suspected of distributing leaflets attacking Democratic Liberal Party presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam.

The prosecution would also investigate whether Chonguk tried to influence the outcome of the election in agreement with Democratic Party [DP] presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung, he said.

The DP and Chonguk agreed on a 54-point reform platform last week, erecting a common front against Kim Yong-sam. The agreement covers reform of the law on assembly and demonstration, immediate implementation of local autonomy and legalization of organizations such as Chongyojo (the National Teachers Union) and Chonnohyop (the Korean Trade Union Congress).

* North's New Leadership Line-up Noted

932C0034A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Oct 92 p 9

[By reporter An Hui-chang: "North Korea's Leadership Line-up: Party Hierarchy, as of the Regime's 44th Anniversary 9 September, Shows Rise in Force of 'Kim Chong-il Faction' Bureaucrats"]

[Text] Yi Son-sil in her grandmother age now, who once led the building of the "South Korean Workers Party" at its van, ranks 22d in the North Korean leadership line-up. Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the State Administration Council and head delegate to the North-South high-level talks, ranks sixth, while Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon, who visited South Korea in July, 32d. These are part of the order of importance in the line-up as of 9 September this year, the day marking the 44th anniversary of the founding of the North Korean government. Then, how are these rankings made? In the North Koran hierarchy, whether a person holds a position in the party, its Political Bureau and Secretariat in particular, constitutes a factor playing a decisive role in determining his or her rank. Those holding no position in the party would find themselves discriminated against, no matter how high posts they might be in within the Administration or the legislature.

Consequently, Yi Son-sil, a candidate member of the party Political Bureau, is, needless to say, higher in rank than Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier.

Individual rankings usually can be identified from press reports of a party congress or major state event such as ceremonies marking the founding anniversary of the government or funeral service for a high-ranking leader, and from the order in which the leaders in attendance are listed in these reports.

In North Korea today, the 21 members of the party Political Bureau—13 regular members (originally 14; So Chol died on 30 September) and eight candidate members—make up the core of its leadership.

Especially, of them, the Standing Committee (made up by Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il and O Chin-u in that order) represents the core of the core.

There have been no change in the positions of these three leaders since the sixth party congress in 1980.

For the fourth and below, however, there always have been ups and downs. Follows a look at such changes since the first session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly in May 1990:

The current order of importance among the regular Political Bureau members except the top three is:

Fourth, Yi Chong-ok (vice president); fifth, Pak Song-chol (vice president); sixth, Yon Hyong-muk (premier); seventh, Kim Yong-nam (minister of foreign affairs); eighth, Choe Kwang (chief of the general staff of the armed forces); ninth, Kye Ung-tae (party secretary); 10th, Chon Pyong-ho (party secretary); 11th, Han Song-yong (party secretary); 12th, So Yun-sok (responsible secretary for the party South Pyongan Province Committee; 13th, Kang Song-san (responsible secretary of the party South Pyongan Province Committee [as printed]).

Of these figures, Yun Hyong-muk rose to a No. 4 at the time of the 43d founding anniversary of the government last year but fell back this year to where he had been, the sixth.

Except for Yon, there has been no change for the top seven down to the seventh-ranking Kim Yong-nam.

Choe Kwang, purged in 1969, was rehabilitated in 1977 and reinstated as chief of the general staff of the Armed Forces in 1988. Along with Kye Ung-tae, Han Song-yong and Chon Pyong-ho, he has seen his rank changed from time to time, although not drastically.

Their rankings in May 1990 were: Choe Kwang (8th) - Kye Ung-tae (9th) - Han Song-yong (10th) - Chon Pyong-ho (12th). But in April 1991, the order of importance changed to: Kye Ung-tae (8th) - Chon Pyong-ho (9th) - Han Song-yong (10th) - Choe Kwang (11th).

They were readjusted in September this year to show them in this order: Choe Kwang (8th), Kye Ung-tae (9th), Chon Pyong-ho (10th), and Han Song-yong (11th).

So Yun-sok and Kang Song-san occupied the last regular-member position alternatingly; currently, So ranks 12th and Kang 13th.

A comparison with the May 1950 line-up indicates that except for the death of Ho Tam in May 1990 and that of So Chol in September this year, there has been no change.

Of the regular Political Bureau members other than Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, O Chin-u and Choe Kwang and Pak Song-chol are ex-guerrilla fighters with military backgrounds and the rest are ex-government officials.

Especially, in the cases of Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-no and Han Song-yong, they concurrently serve as party secretaries. So, they are expected to play key roles in the coming "Kim Chong-il era."

Nominations to, and changes in, the leadership line-up are determined by the Political Bureau Standing Committee. Presently, Kim Chong-il, who is also party secretary in charge of organization, is known to be playing a leading role more than Kim Il-song does.

At the same time, concerning minor changes in the line-up, namely, changes except in cases such as a purge, the general observation is that they usually reflect consideration for balance between ex-guerrilla fighters and ex-party or ex-government officials, rather than any other particular reasons.

The top 35 in the line-up include as many as nine relatives and in-laws of Kim Il-song and his son, including Kim Chang-chu, Kim Il-song's cousin.

The Political Bureau regular members are followed in the order of importance by candidate members, whose current standings are:

First, Choe Tae-pok (party secretary in charge of education); second, Choe Yong-nim (vice premier); third, Kim Chol-man (member of the National Defense Commission); fourth, Hong Song-nam (vice premier); fifth, Hong Si-hak; sixth, Kim Pong-sin (vice premier); seventh, Kang Hui-won (vice premier; and eighth, Yi Son-sil.

A comparison with the May 1990 list indicates no change except Hyon Mu-kwang, who died in November 1990, and Cho Se-ung, who has not been seen publicly since his dismissal in November 1990 as responsible secretary of the party North Pyongan Province Committee.

Also in their ranks, there have been no change with Choe Tae-pok and Yi Son-sil; changes involving other candidate members were also of a minor scale.

As for Yi Son-sil, who was promoted in a blitz style to candidate member of the Political Bureau in the sixth party congress in 1980, has since been a subject of concerns as there was no confirmed information available about her activities despite the fact that she was listed in the same position each time. The espionage case recently uncovered in the South shed light on her role, however.

Among the candidate members, only Kim Chol-man is from the military while the rest are either party officials or administrative bureaucrats.

Those ranking No. 23—next to Yi Son-sil—down to No. 35 include the following figures:

Kim Chung-nin, 23d. Once called a "genius" of anti-South covert operations, he was dismissed as secretary for South Korean affairs in the 1983 Burma terrorist incident [against a visiting ROK presidential party] but made a comeback in 1988 as party secretary responsible for mass organizations.

Yun Pok-ki, No. 24 and well known to us. He visited Seoul a few times during the North-South dialogue in the early 1970's. Currently, he is the North Korean co-chairman of Pomminnyon and party secretary for South Korean affairs.

Kim Yong-sun, in charge of improving relations with the United States and Japan and active nowadays with diplomatic activities, ranks 25th, while Yang Hyong-sop, who, as speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly, hosts dinners at times of the high-level talks held in Pyongyang, ranks 29th in the line-up.

Chang Chol, minister of culture and arts of the State Administration, who is the most successful among repatriates from Japan, ranks 33d, while Chon Mun-sop, chief of the Secret Service for Kim Il-song, ranks 34th.

Burma

Rangoon Agrees To Relocate Troops From Hill 491

BK0812151392 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] The Thai Regional Border Committee led by Lieutenant General Yingyot, the commmander of the Third Army Region of the Thai military, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] on the morning of 8 December to attend the special meeting to continue discussions on matters related to the seventh meeting of the Joint Border Committee held in Chiangmai last month.

The Thai Regional Border Committee was welcomed by Major General Maung Aye, leader of the Myanmar [Burmese] delegation and commander of the Eastern Military Command. The two delegations later held a meeting.

In the past three years, seven regular regional border committee meetings and one emergency meeting were held between the two countries. Border issues were discussed and solved based on existing friendship, the good tradition of cooperation, and mutual understanding.

But, in a recent border issue, responsible personnel from both sides were troubled by the fabrications and concoctions in the newspapers.

From the beginning, Myanmar has proposed to solve this matter simultaneously but separately at two levels—security position matters at the level of the Regional Border Committee, and joint survey and demarcation matters at the government level.

At the Regional Border meeting held in Chiangmai, the Thai leader proposed that Myanmar change its security position at Point 491, referred to by Myanmar as Point 1542, and that each side conduct the survey separately.

It has been learned that, at the 8 December meeting in Yangon, an agreement was reached to relocate the Burmese defense services personnel from Point 491, referred to by Myanmar as Point 1542.

UN Human Rights Official Meets Foreign Minister

Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Visiting United Nations Human Rights Commission representative Professor Yozo Yokota called on Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw at the Foreign Ministry annex building at 1400 today. Present at the meeting was U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Organizations and Economics Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the morning, Professor Yozo Yokota visited the Shwedagon pagoda where he was welcomed by the pagoda trustees. The professor signed the distinguished visitor's book and paid respects to the pagoda and was shown around by the trustees. The professor next paid respects to Buddha images which will be sent to the border regions for veneration by national races there. He also visited the Shwedagon pagoda museum, the Pitakka Hall, the archives, and the Maha Buddhawun showroom.

It has been learned that Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe hosted a dinner at the Kandawgyi Hotel in honor of the professor and his party.

Muslim Refugees Return to Repatriation Camps

BK0712080892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, three groups of returnees totaling 366 persons—190 males and 176 females—from 83 households, led by repatriation officials from the country on the other side, arrived in three groups at Ngakhuya, Yinbyu, and Kanyingyaung repatriation camps on 5 December.

It has been learned that relief goods were distributed to them while the cooperative shop sold other basic commodities. The returnees will then be sent back to their respective villages and townships.

41 Refugees Repatriated

BK0812022892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] It has been reported that 41 members—21 males and 20 females—of 20 households, accompanied by Muchina Hussain, reception official from the country on the other side [Bangladesh], arrived in two boats at Ngakhuya Camp at 0955 today in accordance with bilateral consultations concerning those who left Myanmar [Burma] illegally for Bangladesh. The delegation accompanying the returnees returned to the country on the other side at 1340.

The returnees were received and scrutinized by members of the Reception and Resettlement Committee from the Department of Manpower and Immigration. The returnees were provided with relief goods and allowed to buy goods from cooperative stores. It is learned that the returnees will be sent back to their original townships and villages.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Further Reportage on Lao Premier's Visit

Mahathir Hosts Banquet

BK0912082092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0421 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Gumpur, Dec 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said

the potential for increased co-operation betwen Malaysia and Laos is vast in areas such as trade, investment and culture. He said both countries must continue to enhance bilateral relations.

At a dinner hosted in honour of Laotian Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon here Tuesday night, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia and Laos had made significant progress in strengthening bilateral relations in recent months.

"Both countries have upgraded diplomatic representation to the level of ambassador. This in itself reflects our joint commitment towards fostering closer relations."

He said the signing of three agreements—the air service agreement, the investment guarantee agreement, and the economic, scientific and technical cooperation agreement—between the two countries Tuesday would form a good basis for future cooperation.

He said Malaysia had followed with keen interest the many positive changes taking place in Laos.

He also added that the implementation of free market economy policies initially encounter difficulties, but he was confident that Laos would successfully achieve the desired objectives.

He said Malaysia was ready to co-operate in areas where it had the experience, expertise and means, consistent with its active support for and commitment towards greater South-South co-operation.

Dr. Mahathir describes the Laotian prime minister's visit as timely because the countries in Southeast Asia were individually and collectively in the midst of responding to rapid changes in the international political and economic scene.

"There is a need to promote greater understanding and goodwill and strengthen friendship and co-operation in the region."

"We must be willing to resolve old or emerging issues peacefully and refrain from actions that could be detrimental to our own well-being."

"This is the time for countries of Southeast Asia to forge ahead in the effort to develop and prosper in a climate of durable peace and stability."

Dr. Mahathir said in the full spirit of good neighbourliness and in the interet of regional peace, stability and cohesion, Malaysia has welcomed Laos' accession to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in Southeast Asia.

He said Malaysia also fully supported Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN's) decision to accord observer status to Laos and looked forward to the day when Laos would become a member of ASEAN.

Laos Interested in Development

BK0912082392 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0708 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Laos is keen to learn more about Malaysia's development plans, its prime minister Khamtai Siphandon said Wednesday.

There were several aspects of Malaysia's development strategies which the Laotian Government could emulate to improve its economy, he said after attending a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) at the Prime Minister's Department here.

He said he was impressed by the comprehensive strategies and the level of development attained by Malaysia.

Khamtai, who is here on a three-day official visit, was given a briefing on the activities and role of the EPU, the New Economic Policy (NEP), the history of the Malaysia plans, and Vision 2020 to make Malaysia a fully developed nation.

He was briefed by EPU Deputy Director General (macro), Annuar Maaruf for about an hour.

Khamtai, who is here at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed ends his visit Thursday.

Training Facilities Offered

BK0912103192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0413 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is prepared to provide more training facilities in local institutions for Laotian government personnel, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Tuesday.

Training would be provided in any training institutions for selected personnel from that country, he told reporters after discussions between delegations of the two countries at the Prime Minister's department here.

Initially, he said, there would be exchange of officials to look into areas which would be of interests to both parties.

At the moment, Abdullah said Malaysia had provided training facilities to several Laotian officials to study English at the MARA Institute of Technology and at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

The training programme to assist in the development of Laos would be enhanced with the signing of economic, scientific and technical cooperation agreement, he added.

Besides the pact, which was signed by Abdullah, both countries also signed an air services agreement and an investment guarantee agreement Tuesday.

Government 'Saddened' by Attack on Indian Mosque

BK0912134692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Malaysia has sought India's assurance that it would take steps to ensure that Muslims in that country continue to enjoy freedom of worship. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia also demanded that the Indian Government take steps to protect mosques and historical Islamic sites from destruction by zealots. Datuk Abdullah was speaking at a news conference at Wisma Putera [the Ministry of Foreign Affairs] on Malaysia's reaction to the raid by militant Hindus on the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India. Datuk Abdullah said the statement on Malaysia's reaction to the incident was issued after the cabinet discussed the matter at its weekly meeting today. He said the Malaysian Government was deeply saddened by the sacrilegious attack by the militants, which had angered Muslims nationwide. He said as a multiracial country upholding the principles of tolerance, Malaysia took a serious view of the incident. Datuk Abdullah said Malaysia welcomed the firm measures applied by the Indian Government and hoped further measures would resolve the problem early and peacefully.

Singapore

Malaysian Minister on Country's Economic Growth

BK0812120392 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Dec 92 p 40

[By Kevin Lim and Ann Williams]

[Text] Malaysia has the financial resources to speed up its infrastructural investments but it has opted for more sustainable growth instead, said visiting Malaysian Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said Malaysia could aim for growth that is higher than the 8-percent forecast for next year, as its "reserves were for the first time quite comfortable relative to its foreign borrowings."

But it chose instead to implement tough fiscal measures to clamp down on inflationary pressures currently affecting the economy, he said.

Malaysia's public sector capital expenditure on infrastructure is expected to reach M [Malaysian] $22.7 billion (S [Singapore] $14.5 billion) next year, up from M $19 billion this year.

Datuk Sri Anwar was speaking to reporters at a press conference held at the Malaysian High Commission yesterday.

He described the 8-percent growth forecast as "only moderately high." This was because it took into account infrastructural investment that could not be deferred if further economic growth was to be ensured.

This 8-percent figure is above the 7-percent average growth targeted during Malaysia's sixth five-year plan.

Inflation in Malaysia was now "much under control," he added, when asked to comment on remarks that its economy was overheating.

Malaysia's inflation this year is expected to hit 4.6 percent as compared to 4.4 percent in 1991.

Measures introduced for Malaysia's 1993 Budget include the increase of forced savings by raising the Employees Provident Fund contributions by two percentage points from next year.

Datuk Sri Anwar conceded yesterday that Malaysia had also been affected by a slowdown in foreign investments. But he said the "take-off" of projects already approved has not slowed down, and that the fall in investments was also partly due to Malaysia being more selective in approving ventures.

The Malaysian Government had alleviated the labour shortage by relaxing its policy on migrant labour from neighbouring countries, he added.

Datuk Sri Anwar, here on a two-day visit at the invitation of his counterpart Finance Minister Dr. Richard Hu, called on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew yesterday.

Today he will be calling on Brigadier General (Res) [Reservist] Lee Hsien Loong [deputy prime minister], Dr. Hu, and Minister for Information and the Arts and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs BG [Brigadier General] (Res) George Yeo.

Ex-Navy Chief Named as PAP By-Election Candidate

BK0812120192 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Summary from poor reception] The People's Action Party [PAP] today introduced its new candidate for the Marine Parade by-election. He is the former chief of the Navy, Commodore Teo Chee Hean. His candidacy was announced by a member of the PAP Central Executive Committee Brigadier General George Yeo. Brig. Gen. Yeo said Commodore Teo replaces Mr. Lim Chee Onn who has stepped down for health reasons. Commodore Teo together with Prime Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Mr. Matthias Yao, and Mr. Othman Haron Eusofe will lead the PAP team in the by-election.

Indian Secretary Discusses Economic, Cultural Ties

BK0612095292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] India and Singapore have agreed to work in close cooperation in the economic and cultural fields and also to resolve the problems of the Indian nationals overstaying in that country. The secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. Srinivasan, who is leading an Indian delegation, held talks with the senior officials of Singapore on bilateral and international issues. Reports from Singapore say that Singapore has agreed to support India's membership to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, forum. India is already a sectoral partner of the ASEAN.

Cambodia

PDK Liaison Officer Comments on Grenade Attacks

BK0912065592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Dec 92

["6 December letter from General Nuon Bunno, liaison officer of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea in the Mixed Military Working Group, to Gen. John Sanderson, commander of the Forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia"—read by announcer]

[Text] I. There was a spate of grenade attacks against the offices of the liaison officers of the parties of Democratic Kampuchea, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and the KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] at a hotel in Battambang town on 27 November 1992.

II. Both the people and staff members of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in Battambang Province are well aware that it was the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh faction that carried out the attacks. The Vietnamese invaders' and Phnom Penh faction's actions were aimed at shattering other political parties as well as their members, spirits, and organizations, thereby barring them from carrying out all political activities and destroying the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

III. The Cambodian people and the tripartite national resistance forces vehemently denounce the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh faction's cruel attacks against the offices of the official liaison officers of the tripartite resistance forces at the hotel in Battambang town.

IV. Criminal attacks by the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh faction against other parties are increasing in this 12th dry season. This is because UNTAC has not correctly implemented the Paris accord, especially the following key provisions:

a. UNTAC has not handed over to the SNC its role as the sole legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia during the transition; and

b. UNTAC has not verified and controlled the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn. This action has further encouraged the flow of a growing number of Vietnamese into Cambodia.

c. UNTAC has not run the Phnom Penh faction's five ministries, specifically the Ministry of National Security. It has instead allowed the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh faction to carry out activities to intimidate other political parties at will.

V. We are of the opinion that only with UNTAC correctly implementing the Paris accord—particularly the aforementioned important provisions—can Cambodia recover peace, independence, unity, and sovereignty within its territorial integrity, thereby allowing the people to exercise their rights to self-determination through free, correct, and fair elections.

'Document': KR Wants Battlefield in Capital

BK0912125292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 9 Dec 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 9 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge, in a secret document obtained by AFP, said it wants to open a "battlefield" in Phnom Penh in order to capture political power.

The contents of the 38-page, handwritten document indicate the radical faction feels isolated by the international community following the signing of the peace accords ending the Cambodian civil war, but that it maintains its goal of attempting to regain power even through military means.

The Khmer Rouge say they will continue a "strategic offensive in the countryside" and open up a battlefield in Phnom Penh in order to capture popular strength." [no opening quote as received]

"Initially we will capture it politically. From politics, we will move on to organization, and from organization to action," the document said.

Dated February 6 and marked "first draft," it appears to be a directive to young Khmer Rouge diplomats from the radical faction's Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, according to Ben Kiernan, a Cambodia scholar at Yale University in the United States who examined it.

"This is typical of Khmer Rouge language," he said. "It's the background for (their) people speaking out to the rest of the world."

The document shies away from urging overt revolutionary tactics, and claims the "contemporary struggles with law and documents."

"If we are careless, we may lose," it says. "If we stand our principles on the agreement, we cannot be defeated."

Kiernan said the language urging cadres to continue the struggle is couched so that emissaries from the radical movement can feel confident in claiming the modern-day Khmer Rouge have no expansionist military aims, only political ones.

"The language is not inconsistent with their strategy of military expansion," he said.

The Khmer Rouge, which ruled Cambodia with brute force from 1975 to 1979 when they were ousted in a Vietnamese invasion, have steadfastly refused to cooperate with U.N. peacekeepers implementing the peace accords.

The document explains the tactic, expressing the desire to attack villages to "throw the situation into confusion" in order to allow the Khmer Rouge to profit from chaos.

"If we attack the enemy, everybody will be confused and concerned," it said. "We want the enemy to be confused. If the situation is not in chaos, then Thailand and China will think it is too easy."

The document speaks of a growing alienation from China and the need to keep the faction's former ally on its toes pushing for its interests.

Western powers are "always attacking the Chinese on human rights, in order that the Chinese will need the Yuon," the document said, using the Cambodian derogatory slang for Vietnamese.

"The Chinese and Thais might therefore become more and more cold (towards the Khmer Rouge) and would just go on making concessions (to the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government), because the fact that their troops are coming in as demining and road-building forces means they are getting some money out of this as well," it said.

The document also claims U.N. peackeepers know that Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia, armed and with apparent connection to Phnom Penh forces.

It also said Thai soldiers are inside Cambodia in zones controlled by the Khmer Rouge.

In Thursday's edition of the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, which also obtained the document, Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri proposed that a "neutral" team from four or five countries—including Thailand—go into Cambodia to ascertain if any Vietnamese troops are still there.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is mandated by the U.N. Security Council to verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

It has said it has found no evidence so far of any Vietnamese soldiers.

UN Uncovers 10 Victims of 'Summary Executions'

BK0912074092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 9 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeepers have uncovered the decomposing bodies of 10 Cambodians, including a Phnom Penh government soldier, apparently murdered in summary executions, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Two groups of five people were executed in recent weeks in separate incidents in eastern and western Cambodia, spokesman Eric Falt said.

"These 10 deaths appear to be random killings committed in an executionary or semi-executionary way" and qualify under international standards as "extra-judicial killings, Falt said.

Five of the dead, including the soldier, had been arrested by Phnom Penh armed forces before their murder in the western province of Battambang, he said.

"The reasons for the arrest seem to be unclear," Falt said.

Unlike previous murders, none of the victims appeared to be ethnic Vietnamese, a minority group that is the target of racial persecution in Cambodia.

The soldier died of repeated blows to the head.

With him were two men wearing unidentifiable military uniforms and two men wearing civilian clothes.

All were killed by either blows to the head, disemboweling or bayonet wounds to the back, Falt said.

It appeared that most or all of the five were bound or had their hands tied behind their backs, he said.

In a second incident in eastern Kompong Cham Province near the Vietnamese border, five men between 30 and 35 years old were found Monday with their hands tied behind their backs and a bullet wounds to the head, Falt said.

The bodies were already decomposing, and spent AK-47 shells were found near the scene in the village of Trapeng Pnlong.

"Their identities and a motive have yet to be established," Falt said.

U.N. investigators have not yet established responsibility for the killings, he added.

The murders will be reported to the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, the spokesman said.

Canadian Peacekeeper Abducted, Assaulted

BK0912093092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 9 (AFP)—A Canadian woman serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cambodia was abducted and assaulted by a group of Cambodians in the northwestern city of Battambang, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

The woman, identified only as Corporal Highmore, had stopped in the city to buy some water Tuesday night when she was kidnapped, spokesman Eric Falt said.

She fled her captors, Falt said, but the duration of her captivity was not immediately known.

The Cambodians hit her on the head and burned her face with a cigarette lighter, the spokesman said.

"Except for a bump on the head and burns to the face, she's all right," Falt said.

Highmore was able to rejoin her unit of Canadians serving in Battambang, and flew to U.N. headquarters in the Cambodian capital on Wednesday, he said.

She serves with a company of Canadians doing transport and resupply in the northwest, and had been delivering meals ready to eat (MREs) to her colleagues before her abduction, Falt said.

Indonesia

Commentary Views Investment Prospects, Obstacles

BK0712125392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo, chairman of the Capital Investment Coordinating Board, has painted a bright picture of foreign investment in Indonesia in the last five years, despite the prevailing belief that foreign investors have begun to lose their confidence in the country. In an interview with a Jakarta newspaper last Friday, Sanyoto said that while total foreign investment was registered at U.S. $1.5 billion only in 1987, it stood at $8.7 billion in 1990. The figure may reach $10 billion this year because as of November, total foreign invesment in Indonesia already stood at $9.2 billion.

Sanyoto's remarks has refuted the view that foreign investors have reduced their confidence in Indonesia due to increasing investment risks in this country. The view, based on a survey made by a U.S. analysis and evaluation agency, indeed needs verification for its accuracy. The U.S. agency believes that a country's investment risk is based on three factors, namely, political, financial, and economic factors. From the economic viewpoint, Indonesia is seen as a country with medium investment risk, while from the financial viewpoint, Indonesia is considered a country with very low investment risk. Only from the political viewpoint is Indonesia seen to have high investment risk. Despite the U.S. agency's assessment, the fact is that Indonesia has a stable political situation and is even more stable than some other Asian countries. The increased flow of foreign investment into Indonesia in the last five years also indicates foreign investors' confidence in the country. Furthermore, as Sanyoto pointed out, foreign investors attach greater importance to the problem of infrastructure, or rather lack of it, in this country.

Competition to attract foreign investment in the future will be more and more fierce. In this region, Indonesia will face new competitors such as Vietnam and the PRC. Eastern European countries and former Soviet Union republics, which have also begun to open their doors to foreign investment, are also potential competitors. Only those countries capable of creating an attractive investment climate will be able to successfully woo foreign investors.

To cope with this increasingly fierce competition, Indonesia has no other choice but keep on improving its investment climate and take into account all investment factors favorable to foreign investors, namely financial credibility, economic, and political stability. Speaking at a seminar on the financial requirement on national economic development, Dr. Mari Pangestu pointed out a number of obstacles which need to be removed, namely the shortage of electricity, telecommunications, and water facilities as well as unclear legal system. Lack of skilled and professional workers, unclear local regulations, and irregular development of land are also cited as obstacles.

Official: E. Timor Rebel Leader Allowed Visitors

BK0912093792 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0457 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 9 (OANA/ANTARA)—Xanana Gusmao, former leader of the Security Disturbing Movement (GPK) in East Timor, who is now in the Indonesian police headquarters detention here, is treated similarly with other police detainees under the existing directives regarding the security, surveillance, watch and treatment of detainees.

The cell, food, sports, and health facilities as well as medical treatment given to Xanana are the same as those given to other detainees, said Colonel Ahwil Lutan, the head of the Subdirectorate of General Crimes of the police headquarters to ANTARA here on Tuesday.

Xanana is also allowed to receive his family like other detainees, Col. Ahwil Lutan said in connection with the visit of two officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to Xanana on Monday.

The visit of the Red Cross officials was arranged by the director of general crimes of the police headquarters, Brigadier General Utoyo Sutopo, Col. Awhil Lutan, and E.G. Rumayar from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"We are prepared if his family members want to visit him but I heard that he has no relatives here as his wife and children are in Australia," Ahwil Lutan said.

We will consider it, said Ahwil Lutan when he was asked about possible requests for a visit by other people who have no family relationship with him.

News about the visit of ICRC officials has drawn much attention from mass media in Portugal as shown by many calls ANTARA received from them Monday night several hours after it sent out the news.

Among the callers were the Portuguese television station and a radio station which made a long-distance interview with ANTARA in connection with the visit of the ICRC officials.

Laos

Prime Minister, Entourage Leave for Malaysia

BK0812130992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, at 0630 on 8 December, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and a government delegation left Vientiane for an official friendship visit to Malaysia from 8 to 10 December.

Included in the high-level delegation led by H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon are Phao Bounnaphon, minister and chief of the Prime Minister's Office; Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister for foreign affairs; Boutsabong Souvannavong, deputy minister of economy, planning, and finance; Pian Saphangthong, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry; Somphong Vanitsavet, LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipoteniary to Malaysia; and an entourage of more than 10 persons.

During the three-day visit from 8 to 10 December, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon will meet and consult with H.E. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia. He will also call on the Paramount Ruler of Malaysia.

In addition, the LPDR Government delegation will visit many important historical places and some business production units.

Seeing the delegation of at Wattai airport were Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance; Oudom Khatthi-gna, lord mayor of Vientiane Municipality; and Thongsing Thammavong, head of the party Central Committee Organizational Board, together with ministers, deputy ministers in the government, and a large number of high-ranking Lao cadres concerned.

Thai Premier Greets Khamtai on National Day

BK0812134392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Message of greetings from His Excellency Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to His Excellency Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, LPDR, on the occasion of the 17th founding anniversary of the LPDR—dated 7 December 1992]

[Text] On the occasion of the 17th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], on behalf of the government of his majesty the king and the Thai people, I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to your excellency and the brotherly Lao people. I wish all of you happiness and prosperity.

I firmly believe and hope that the governments of our two countries will join each other in developing and promoting existing brotherly relations and close cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and the LPDR to become increasingly firm and stable in the future for the interests of the Thai and Lao peoples and for peace and progress for our two countries.

On the same occasion, His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister of the LPDR, also received a congratulatory message from H.E. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Bulgarian President Congratulates Nouhak

BK0912023992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Greetings message from Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, to Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of Your Excellency's election as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], in my own name I am pleased to convey warm greetings and best wishes to Your Excellency. I wish Your Excellency good health and great success in performing your noble task for the welfare of the entire Lao people. I am convinced that in the future, the friendly relations between our two countries will be consistently promoted and expanded.

Brunei Minister Meets Premier, Education Minister

BK0512071392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] This morning, Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] received a courtesy call from Abdul Aziz bin Umar,

education minister of Brunei and president of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, or SEAMEO, and his party.

The prime minister expressed his appreciation for the visit to Laos by the Brunei delegation, which he said would contribute to the gradual improving and developing of the relations and cooperation between Laos and Brunei.

The Brunei education minister expressed his grievous sorrow on the recent loss of the beloved leader of the Lao people.

On this occasion, the visiting minister expressed his congratulations to Khamtai Siphandon on his election as chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and wished him to successfully lead the country toward progress and prosperity.

The Brunei delegation headed by the education minister arrived in Vientiane Capital at noon on 3 December for a two-day visit to the LPDR at the invitation of the Fducation and Sports Ministry of Laos.

The SEAMEO president called on Saman Vi-gnaket, Lao education and sports minister, on the evening of the same day. During the conversation, Saman Vi-gnaket thanked the delegation for paying a visit to Laos, which he regarded as promoting the relations of friendship and at the same time exchanging experiences in the field of education and culture between Laos and Brunei, as well as between Laos and the SEAMEO.

Deputy Defense Minister Meets Foreign Attaches

BK0512092392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] On the morning of 2 December, Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, deputy minister of national defense and head of the Army General Political Department, accompanied by many high-ranking officers of the ministry, received in the reception room of the National Defense Ministry in Vientiane military attaches of various friendly countries, who called on him to extend greetings on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of national day. The military attaches included Lieutenant (Bui Cong Tai) of the SRV, Colonel Li Laichen of the PRC, Brigadier General Som Vanthan of the State of Cambodia, and Colonel (Yusin) of the Russian Federation.

During the calls on this occasion, all of the military attaches expressed their grief at the recent demise of President Kaysone Phomvihan, our country's outstanding leader. They then hailed the glorious success of our Lao people in building and developing the country as well as in fulfilling the national defense and public security work during the restructuring period. They also reiterated that they will do their best to further improve and strengthen the relations and cooperation between their respective countries and our Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives French, Other Delegations

BK0212151192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] On 30 November at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, a delegation of the French Government led by [name indistinct], a former minister and special adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand paid a courtesy call on Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

On the occasion, the French delegation head handed over through the Lao deputy prime minister the French president's message of congratulations to His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan on the occasion of the latter's election as new president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. The Lao deputy premier and the guests had a conversation on several issues, especially on the relations, cooperation, and assistance between Laos and France, in which both sides concurred that progress has been made satisfactorily.

The French Government delegation arrived in Laos on 27 November to attend the funeral of the late President Kaysone Phomvihan and left for home at noon on 1 December.

Earlier, on the evening of 27 November, Phoun Sipaseut received courtesy calls from various delegations of friendly countries which attended the funeral of the late President Kaysone Phomvihan. They were the delegations of Thailand, Myanmar [Burma], Malaysia, Australia, and Japan.

Leaders Greet Romanian National Day Anniversary

BK0612102292 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Recently, His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, jointly sent a telegram of congratulations to H.E. Ion Iliescu, president of Romania, and H.E. (Nicolae Akadoi), prime minister of Romania, in Bucharest.

The message reads: On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Romanian National Day, on behalf of the Government and people of the LPDR and in our own names, we would like to extend to your excellencies our congratulations and through you to the Government and people of Romania.

We are convinced that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened and developed in the interests of both Lao and Romanian peoples, as well as for peace, security, and progress in the society.

We wish your excellencies good health and success in performing your honorable duties.

On the same occasion, H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, also sent a telegram of congratulations to H.E. Teodor Viorel Malescanu, foreign affairs minister of Romania.

Philippines

National Security Advisor Supports MDT Review

HK0912104292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] National Security Advisor Jose Almonte today expressed support for the ongoing discussions in Congress on the implications of the withdrawal of American troops from the Philippines.

Speaking at a hearing of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Almonte said in-depth studies should be made on the implications of the American withdrawal because national interests are at stake.

In the same hearing, the possibility was raised that in case the Philippines is attacked, there is no guarantee that the United States will send help because its presence in the country has ended.

Almonte said it has to be clarified as to what extent the United States can be depended upon and whether or not the Philippines will still get American help.

At present, the Lower House is now reviewing the Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] between the Philippines and the United States.

Ramos Orders Cabinet To Support Peace Process

HK0912021292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has ordered his Cabinet to support the peace process led by the National Unification Commission [NUC].

In yesterday's meeting, the president ordered the cabinet to give the NUC all information, facilities, logistics, equipment and other things needed to ensure the success of the peace talks.

The NUC has reported to the cabinet that the talking points with military, communist and other rebel groups in the country are almost finished.

Military Offers NPA Leaders Safe-Conduct Passes

HK0912031892 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY in English 9 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] The military yesterday offered to issue safe-conduct passes to the leaders of some 500 New People's Army [NPA] guerrillas believed holed up in the common boundaries of Rizal, Quezon and Bulacan provinces.

Brig. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, commander of National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC] said the offer was made to enable the start of possible negotiations for their surrender.

He explained that the insurgents were still in the area and that they have split into groups of about ten to 20 men each. "They are still in the area, that is why we had to inject more men."

He did not say how many more troops were sent as reinforcement, but Col. Rolando Pastano, the NCRDC spokesman, said it did not reach 1,000.

Cunanan said the capture of the NPA base and their training camps there would cripple the NPA's operations in central and southern Luzon.

"Their bases were built some three years ago and they were originally used as a resting place for rebels moving to and from the two regions," he said.

The Armed Forces leadership had decided to continue operations there even if the peace efforts of the Ramos administration is underway.

Cunanan denied reports that the military offensive was meant to derail the government's peace initiatives. "We were merely responding to mounting complaints from the people there about the oppressive taxation scheme of the NPA."

Moro Islamic Liberation Front To Join Peace Talks

HK0912032392 Quezon City MALAYA in English 9 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] The Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] will participate in the peace process being undertaken by the National Unification Commission [NUC], Presidential Spokesperson Annabelle T. Abaya said yesterday. Abaya said Haydee Yorac, NUC chairperson, reported to the President that she met with Hadji Murad, MILF chief of staff, "who indicated willingness to participate in the peace process." The MILF is a splinter group from Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front.

Misuari has agreed to peace talks with NUC in a neutral venue to be sponsored by the Organization of Islamic Conference. Abaya said the NUC has received a written response from Misuari through Rep. [Representative] Eduardo Ermita (Batangas-Lakas-NUCD) [Batangas-Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] on the major issues to be taken up during the peace talks.

On the talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front], the NUC submitted to the President "the 10 refinements" to be included in the agenda. These are: Electoral reforms; political principles for the operation of political parties and organizations; broader and more effective enforcement of human rights principles; dismantling of all private armies and strict implementation

of relevant laws; improvements in the administration of justice; protection of the environment; socio-economic reforms; provisions for victims of internal armed conflicts: economic components of national unification; and disposition of forces and armaments.

Abaya said the President ordered all Cabinet members to help the NUC in disseminating correct information.

NUC Negotiates With MNLF To Accept Manila Talks

HK0912104092 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] is considering the proposal of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] to hold the second round of peace talks in Jeddah [Saudi Arabia].

But NUC Chairman Haydee Yorac said the government prefers Manila as the peace talks venue.

Yorac said the NUC will contact MNLF leader Nur Misuari again to convince him to come to Manila for the talks.

Meanwhile, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] has responded favorably to the NUC invitation to participate in the peace talks. The talks with MILF are expected to start soon.

Senate Defense Committee Head Proposes Budget Cuts

HK0912021492 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Senator Orlando Mercado has proposed the cancellation of the appropriation for the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Units [CAFGU]. Mercado also proposed the cancellation of various unnecessary modernization projects in the Armed Forces. Mercado is asking for a 50 percent cut in the P530 million [Philippine pesos] intended for CAFGU and the pay increases for enlisted personnel. Mercado is chairman of the Senate Committe on Defense and Security.

Ramos Speaks at Signing of New Energy Bill

HK0912093492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0448 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos during the signing of Republic Act 7638, creating the Department of Energy, at Malacanang Palace, Manila—live, in English]

[Text] Senate President Gonzales, [House] Speaker De Venecia, Senator Romulo, the [Senate] majority floor leader, Congressman Payumo, the distinguished members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, our co-workers in the Cabinet and the rest of government, your excellencies, the leaders of the private sector, ladies and gentlemen:

In keeping with time-honored practices, we mark here today the passage of several new laws in our land. Ordinarily, such an occasion does not require much ceremony. It is enough for the president to sign or not to sign the law that Congress has approved. But when the new laws are of such surpassing importance, it is fitting that the leaders of Congress and the executive, within the sight of our people, should be on hand for their signing and promulgation. Such is the case with Republic Act Number 7638, which creates a new Department of Energy in our government. The problems which it seeks to address are [words indistinct] mayor, and the clamor for relief is so urgent that the attention of the whole nation is on us here today.

In signing this bill into law, we set into motion the indispensable instrument that we need to effectively plan, implement, and operate a lasting answer to our energy problems, and thereby provide vital infrastructure for the development of our country.

I congratulate and thank the members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate for acting with probity and dispatch on this bill, which the administration certified to Congress as urgent. You have acted, ladies and gentlemen of the legislature, in a spirit of bipartisanship and devotion to the public interest that shows how the legislature and the executive can effectively work together. This is how it should always be in these times of challenges and hardships.

During the past five months, the government has spared no effort to put in place the policies, the projects, and the programs that can squarely meet the severe energy crisis plaguing our country today. With this act and the mandated establishment of a new Department of Energy, we can now move doubletime in our energy development program. This hour declares that it is the policy of the state: first, to ensure a continuous, adequate, and economic supply of energy with the end in view of achieving self-reliance in the country's energy requirements; and second, to integrate and coordinate the various programs of the government towards self-sufficiency and enhance productivity in power and energy without sacrificing ecological concerns.

The new department shall be headed by a secretary who shall sit with me in Cabinet meetings and participate in all discussions that shall emphasize energy's critical contribution to our progress as a nation. I intend to appoint Delfin Lazaro, a proven, respected, and dedicated problem solver and manager as secretary of the new Department of Energy. [applause]

The Department of Energy will apply strategic and long-range planning to our country's total power and energy needs and resources. Yet, while our hopes are raised by the passage of this act, let us not deceive ourselves about the power and energy problems we are facing. This law is no silver bullet that will immediately put an end to our current energy crisis. It is a problem that has grown into a monster over time. The monster

feeds on official carelessness and bureaucratic inefficiency. It has become a national menace because of poor long-range planning, displacements of priorities, and the sad lack of managerial discipline and decisiveness, all of which are vital and necessary in complex energy projects.

It is as if we have forgotten the elementary lesson that energy is the fuel of economic activity and growth. We are now being forced to work the basics of the solution. These basics in our view are deregulation, privatization, and the commitment to re-channel limited resources towards its solution. With respect to deregulation, the new law provides for a phased program of deregulation within a short time. I therefore expect the new department to present to me the program and timetable for the deregulation of the different projects and activities of the energy industry.

With respect to privatization, I expect the department to come up with the necessary policy and program initiatives for the privatization of the government agencies or components thereof involved in energy.

And with respect to mobilizing resources for energy development, this administration will spare no effort to tap all available resources, both public and private, for the financing of power development projects. Professionalization will mark all of our efforts to solve the energy crisis permanently. Let me say again as I said in my meeting with the National Power Corporation [NPC or NAPOCOR] officials and employees last Friday, that we will not waiver in our program to reform and make more effective the National Power Corporation.

There is already much to commend in what the present NPC board, headed by Mr. Delfin Lazaro, and before him Mr. Pablo Malixi, as to what they are doing to improve NAPOCOR's administrative, financial, and operational performance.

At the same time, however, we must accelerate the process of investigation and prosecution of erring officials. We have to rid the government of scalawags, who bring down the institutions of government and who continue to cause much suffering and inconvenience to our people because of graft and inefficiency. I have ordered the Central Bank to help the National Power Corporation in tracking down those responsible for the scams that have caused the NPC to lose millions of dollars in bogus foreign exchange transactions.

As this law accelerates many activities in our energy development program, it also highlights the need for other administration-sponsored bills that are essential to the success of our power and energy development program. I am happy that also enacted is the bill to pay in part government subscription to the capital stock of NAPOCOR out of the oil price stabilization fund. Other vital bills still in the legislative mills are the Anti-Pilferage Bill, the Energy Conservation Bill, and the bill increasing the capitalization of the National Electrification Administration and a host of other measures that will indicate our determination to address and solve our power and energy problems.

Gentlemen of the Senate and the House, we ask you, therefore, for your resolute support. Even as now, we thank you for the important pieces of legislation promulgated to law today. [applause]

Our goal must be the permanent banishment of power outages in this country, and ensure the growth of power generation well above our targets for economic growth. Let me also stress that there are costs to be borne for permanent relief from the energy crisis. The cost to all of us will be high, but the cost of doing nothing or not enough will be even higher. We need the furtherance of all our people in meeting this crisis. We must all be ready to see this challenge through, rationally and clearly. All this in turn will spell greater economic activity and socioeconomic development in our country. As I have said before, so I will say again on this happy occasion, let us all join hands to move our country to attain 10 percent growth annually by 1998.

As we continue to put our house in order, as we fully install all the infrastructure necessary for growth, and as we show the capacity of Filipino political will, talent, and human resources to be put together for the national welfare, so will the nation move forward and upward.

Today, we also enact other important measures: one, an act amending Article 287, Presidential Decree No. 442 as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, by providing for retirement pay to qualified private sector employees in the absence of any retirement plan in the establishment; and equally important, the Legislative-Executive Development Council Bill, which now puts the legislative and the executive together again as partners in national development planning. These two support strongly our programs for sustainable development for our beloved country.

In this season of good cheer, with Christmas and the new year just around the corner, let us look beyond the dimness enforced by the current crisis of brownouts to the light and progress that is ours to achieve. I do believe that with individual determination and our united resolve, present adversities will be overcome and we shall reap the fruits of our cooperative efforts and collective will in the months and years ahead. Again my congratulations and appreciation to Congress for this exemplary act of bipartisanship. Long lives to you all and a prosperous Christmas and a peaceful and progressive new year. Thank you. [preceding two sentences in Tagalog]

Thailand

Paper Welcomes Joint Decision on Disputed Hill

BK0912015592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Lessons We Must All Learn From Hill 491"]

[Text] Coming right after His Majesty the King's sensible advice on a peaceful settlement to the Hill 491 conflict, the joint decision yesterday by the border authorities of Thailand and Burma to pull back their troops from the disputed territory within 10 days from December 15 in order to allow joint delineation marks a welcome development. The conflict over this otherwise remote stretch of mountainous territory had threatened to turn explosive, which was not surprising given the patriotic sentiments normally associated with matters relating to national sovereignty. Now that both sides have agreed on the truce and joint demarcation of the disputed areas, all parties concerned here can breathe a sigh of relief.

But Hill 491 is not the only flashpoint on the long common border shared by Thailand and Burma. Friction flared just a few weeks ago when Thai border officials and villagers were arrested by Burmese military units stationed at another stretch of the border opposite Mae Hong Son province. It was only after a brief ordeal, which involved high-level intervention by senior officials in Bangkok, that the Thais were finally released. There are also bound to be more border problems elsewhere along the Thai frontier with Burma. The latest campaign launched by a group of Ramkhamhaeng University students over another alleged case of Burmese border intrusion in Kanchanaburi province is a case in point. An investigation has yet to be launched to establish whether this new alleged intrusion actually happened.

These real and potential problems call for a serious assessment of the Thai policy vis-a-vis Burma and the formulation of possible policy adjustments in order to correspond with the existing realities. Border problems similar to those surrounding the Hill 491 conflict could be minimised under a pragmatic policy that provides no excuse for the Burmese military authorities to intrude into Thai territory. A pragmatic policy is also needed because the Thai army obviously cannot afford to station troops along the entire stretch of the border to protect territorial sovereignty.

Although the root causes behind the Burmese intrusion might vary from one case to another, background investigations into most of the cases reveal similar patterns of Burmese suspicion over Thai assistance for ethnic minority groups that have been fighting the Rangoon regime for independence. This suspicion on the part of the Burmese is not new; it might well date back to a Thai policy of a bygone era to deliberately use the rebel minority groups as a buffer against Rangoon. The Thai Government in Bangkok in the recent past and at the present time can claim to have discarded this policy. It can claim further that Thailand's official policy today is to treat the ethnic minority groups as part of Burma's internal problems.

But various forms of vested interests—along the border areas—ranging from narcotics trafficking to war-weapons smuggling and logging—appear to have become ingrained among Thai officials at the border level. Unless border official on the Thai side stop their involvement with the minority elements, Bangkok can expect more cases of Burmese intrusion. The Burmese will point to logistical considerations in that they have to try to cut off supply lines to the ethnic groups or prevent them from using Thai territory to mount attacks into the Burmese side.

The conflict over Hill 491 has also re-focused the need for Thailand to adopt a more active policy vis-a-vis the Rangoon regime. Like the negative publicity Thailand is getting internationally on what is perceived to be its tacit support of the Khmer Rouge, this country's 'constructive engagement' policy on Burma which has been applicable to date has attracted similarly negative reaction in the face of persistent Western condemnation of the Rangoon regime's blatant record of human-rights abuses. Borne out of conservative premises in the past when the world was much less inter-dependent when compared to today, the present Thai policy—for this country to serve as a window linking Burma and the rest of the world, in the words of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai—has paid little regard to the aspirations of the Burmese people of today. It has paid even less concern to the negative repercussions that would befall Thailand if and when the desirable changes take place in Burma.

Thailand will continue to be affected by fallout - from internal unrest in Burma. Border problems of the Hill 491 nature can be averted—and really constructive bilateral relations can be developed—if this country adopts a pro-active policy to seriously encourage national reconciliation among the warring factions in Burma and a peaceful transfer of power to the National League for Democracy under Aung San Suu Kyi's leadership, which won a landslide victory in the 1990 national elections.

Demarcation Will Prevent Serious Border Disputes

BK0912014992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Hill 491 Dispute Underlines Chronic Demarcation Problem"]

[Text] Thai and Burmese negotiators yesterday wisely agreed to cool down the border tensions over the disputed Hill 491 with a reciprocal withdrawal of all troops from both sides of the border during Dec 15-25. No troops will be allowed within one kilometre of the disputed area from either side.

This timely joint decision, reached at a meeting in Rangoon, made it unnecessary for Thailand to use force to regain control of the border hill, which most Thai leaders believe is on the Thai side of the border. It should also douse the nationalistic fire started by some opposition leaders, who wished to see the Burmese intruders expelled militarily. They also faulted the Chuan administration for not taking more decisive action to defend Thailand's territorial integrity, but they were obviously wrong.

The Chuan administration did the right thing in negotiating the military withdrawal from Hill 491. But both sides in the negotiation know that the withdrawal itself is not a long-term solution. So they must continue to work with each other to settle the border dispute permanently.

The dispute arose from some discrepancies between the Thai map and the Burmese one. Last year the hill was occupied by some Karen rebels who frequently clashed with Burmese troops. The Karen rebels were finally driven off the hill in a bloody offensive early this year by heavily armed Burmese troops who have since February dug in to maintain control of the hill.

Rangoon's argument seems to be that Hill 491 must be on Burma's side otherwise the Karen rebels wouldn't have established their outposts on it. If it were on the Thai side, how come Thai authorities did nothing to expel the Karens in the first place?

Perhaps Thai decision-makers were too preoccupied with the political struggle and the May crisis to pay any attention to the border problem. The intrusion of the Burmese troops on Hill 491 made front-page headlines in Bangkok only late last month when some opposition leaders cited it as an example of "inaction" of the Chuan administration during its first two months in office.

To be fair, this government merely inherited the Hill 491 problem from the previous administration, very much like in the case of the controversial business dealings with the Khmer Rouge.

Those who should be held directly accountable for the border dispute with Burma are security authorities responsible for the Thai-Burmese border in Chumphon. They should know all the developments on Hill 491 in recent years and should be summoned to clarify why they failed to expel the Karen rebels from the border hill before the Burmese troops moved in early this year.

We hope this was not a case of local Thai initiative to allow the Karens to take position on Hill 491 in exchange for something in return, like the Karens' cooperation and protection for the hauling of Burmese timber across the border to Thailand. Government decisionmakers in Bangkok were mostly kept in the dark about such secret border dealings.

Now the Chuan administration must make sure that all Burmese and Thai troops are promptly withdrawn from Hill 491 and no other armed groups are allowed to move in. This will be Thailand's chance to show that it never officially condoned the presence of any alien force on the border hill or anywhere else on Thai territory.

Next the existing Thai-Burmese border demarcation mechanisms must be mobilized into settling the dispute over Hill 491 quickly and peacefully. In fact, Thailand has a long-standing policy of wanting to establish border demarcation with all neighbouring countries. But little progress has been achieved on the Thai-Burmese front because of the ongoing fighting between Burmese troops and ethnic rebels along the border.

The Hill 491 dispute should be taken as a stimulus for Thai authorities to speed up the demarcation work with their counterparts from neighbouring countries in less problematic areas, especially in the Thai-Lao and Thai-Malaysian border areas. Don't be complacent. Some opportunists might succeed in fanning up nationalistic fervour in the next border dispute.

Government To Negotiate With UN on KR Sanctions

BK0912021592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved a Foreign Ministry proposal that Thailand fully comply with the United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR], providing they do not contravene Thai law and sovereignty.

In so doing, the Government will try to negotiate with the UN to protect the interests of Thai citizens and ensure that the country is least affected by the sanctions.

Thailand will cooperate with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia in the setting up of border checkpoints inside Cambodia to enforce the oil embargo, provided that the UN does not pass the whole responsibility to Thailand.

Meanwhile, the Government will ask Thai businessmen who have invested in logging and gem mining businesses to slow down their operations to protect the image of the country as a whole.

The UN resolution calls for the establishment of border checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border, for Cambodia's neighbours to comply with the Supreme National Council's ban on timber exports, for the SNC to consider banning gem exports, an oil embargo on the Khmer Rouge, to consider seizing Khmer Rouge assets overseas and to set a deadline for the Khmer Rouge to join the general elections in Cambodia by January 31.

Meanwhile, the Forest Industry Organisation (FIO) is expected to take 25,000-30,000 cubic metres of wood out of Khmer Rouge areas before the Cambodian ban on log exports becomes effective on December 31.

FIO Deputy Director Winai Sabrungruang said the agency has hauled 15,000 cubic metres from Khmer Rouge territory and the log hauling operation will continue as long as there is no instruction from the Government for it to suspend operations.

FIO was given a four-year logging concession by the Khmer Rouge to extract one million cubic metres of wood from its territory, beginning this year.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday Thailand, in dealing with the UN sanctions imposed on

the Khmer Rouge, is trying to balance the immediate and the long-term benefits of the country.

He said that the Government was trying to minimise the damage to its image as a member of the world community while at the same time striving to minimise the immediate impact on its border trade interests.

Thailand has come under increasing international criticism for dragging its feet on the UN sanctions issue in order to protect its logging and gem trade interests with the Khmer Rouge, which has refused to abide by the Paris Peace Agreement and disarm.

Local critics also charged that the Government's handling of the situation was giving the country the image of an "opportunist." They also claimed that it appeared in the eyes of the world community that Thailand was siding with the Khmer Rouge which is responsible for the slaughter of an estimated one million Cambodians from 1975-79.

They pointed out that Thailand's business interests with the European Community, the United States and Japan far outstripped that of the Khmer Rouge.

Some critics also charged that the Government was protecting the so-called "Khmer Rouge interest" because some members of its administration have vested interests in the logging and gem trade which generates a lot of revenue which is used to support their political party.

Dr Surin denied that the Government was insincere in solving the border trade problem. He said that it was trying to negotiate many points and to establish clarity on them from the United Nations and the Supreme National Council.

"We have to reach conclusions on each point on how to enforce them. We cannot at present decide anything ourselves because the issue concerns many sides," Dr Surin said.

On the call by Thai businessmen for the Government to help them, the minister said that the Government was doing this but was acting under limited conditions.

He said that he did not believe press reports that the SNC would initiate a bombing campaign against the Khmer Rouge. This was not an easy thing to do, he said, adding that everyone involved wants the peace process to continue.

Minister Urges Investors To Shift From Cambodia

BK0912102192 Bangkok TNA in English 0329 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Bangkok (OANA-TNA) Dec 9—Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan Tuesday advised Thai investors to shift their markets from Cambodia to other neigbouring countries following the United Nations decision to impose trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

Surin said Thailand would continue cooperating with other contries in turning battle-fields in Indochina into market-places without waiting until lasting peace is restored to Cambodia.

'Thai investors have to be ready to do a business with other Indochinese countries if they cannot trade with Cambodian counterparts in the wake of the UN's trade sanctions imposed along with Thai-Cambodian borders,' he said.

As for measures to help Thai investors affected by the UN sanctions, Surin said the government was planning to hold talks with the UN and the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) as well as other parties concerned to find the best way to alleviate damages done to investors after the sanctions become effective on December 31.

'The government would try its best to help the affected investors and at the same time it has to abide by the UN resolution as a member of the international organization,' he said.

Commenting on a proposal by the investors requesting government to reduce customs procedures in order to expedite the transportation of lumbers from the Khmer Rouge's areas into Thailand, the minister said the Security Council together with the Commerce Ministry is studying the proposal.

Ex-Premier Anan Turns Down PDP Leadership

BK0912013992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang's wooing of former prime minister Anan Panyarachun to take the helm of the Phalang Tham Party [PDP] has apparently failed, with Mr Anan reiterating last night that he definitely will not return to politics.

Mr Anan was invited by Maj-Gen Chamlong to dinner to discuss the latter's proposal.

But Mr Anan made his position clear before joining the PDP de facto leader for the talks: He will not return to politics.

Maj-Gen Chamlong admitted to reporters that he had a good idea what Mr Anan's answer would be. He said he would instead exchange political views with the ex-premier.

Maj-Gen Chamlong has been trying to win over Mr Anan to take on the leadership of the PDP so that he can relinquish his responsibility in the party to pursue his ambitions in rural and national youth development.

Mr Anan said he would thank Maj-Gen Chamlong if the politician invited him to take on the PDP leadership.

He reaffirmed that he will not join any political party in whatever capacity.

Joining Maj-Gen Chamlong and Mr Anan at the dinner were former PM's Office minister Michai Wirawaithaya and Bangkok MP and hotel business tycoon Akon Huntrakun.

Referring to the Opposition's announcement to launch a debate against him outside Parliament, Mr Anan commented that he did not have the political knowledge to understand the Opposition's aim and this explained why he had no ambition to assume a political career.

Accord on Business Information Signed With China

BK0812024992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Dec 92 p 21

[Text] Thailand and China yesterday signed an accord for the exchange of business information and expertise.

The agreement was signed between Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsub and the secretary general of China's state administration for industry and commerce, Liu Minxue.

The Chinese official is here to attend meetings aimed at improving relations and promoting cooperation in the exchange of business information.

Mr Chaiyot said the agreement has two parts.

The first concerns the exchange of information on marketing, commercial registration inspection and protection of intellectual property. The two countries will takes turns holding seminars and meeting periodically.

The second concerns personnel training and the exchange of information and documents on consumer protection.

Intellectual Property Conventions Under Study

BK0712011192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Dec 92 p B2

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit has assigned the Intellectual Property Department to study the pros and cons of belonging to the international conventions on intellectual property protection.

As the Uruguay Round of the Gatt trade talks finally shows some positive signs, the deputy Commerce Minister foresees that Thailand might be asked to become a member of the international conventions to express its commitment to protect intellectual property.

A senior official from the Commerce Ministry who asked not to be named said that becoming a member of the international conventions would help Thailand's image in the international community .

The United States and the European Community have accused Thailand of providing inadequate protection on their intellectual property. The US is asking for more protection on drugs and copyright, while the EC is requesting Thailand to reduce piracy on EC music recordings.

Thailand is currently a member of the Berlin Act of the Berne Convention, but the senior official said that Gatt might ask its members to comply with the Paris Convention. The Rome Convention and the Madrid Agreement, which request tighter protection on intellectual protection among member countries.

The Paris Convention asks member countries to provide so-called 'national treatment' protection on intellectual property, including trademarks and copyright. This means that member countries should treat foreign intellectual property in the same manner as local property.

The Rome Convention requests member countries to provide protection on broadcasting and sound recordings. The Madrid Agreement seeks tighter protection on international trademarks.

The official said, "If Gatt requests Thailand to [join the international conventions], Thailand has to accelerate its study of the conventions so that we can prepare ourself to apply the new regulations," he said.

House Committee Probes Secret Military Funds

BK0212041792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] The House Committee on Military Affairs has apparently stepped in to check the spending of the usually taboo military secret budgets which amount to more than Bt [baht] 1 billion per year, sources said yesterday.

The House committee, chaired by former army chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, officially went on an inspection tour of the Defence Ministry on Monday and scrutinized "in detail" how the secret budgets were normally spent, the sources said.

The House panel was received by the commanders in chief and chiefs of staff from the three armed forces, except Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit who assigned his deputy, Gen San Siphen to represent him.

The sources at the ministry said the secret budgets became the main topic of the discussion between the House panel and the top brass.

During the meeting, the senior military officials voiced opposition to the proposal calling for a cut in the secret budgets, according to the sources.

Not long after the formation of the Chuan coalition, many government and opposition MPs had urged the

administration to cut the budgets substantially. The MPs pointed out the nation's security was no longer under threat.

They also aired the possibility that the secret budgets might be a source of corruption as the public could not monitor for what purposes the budgets were being used.

The military officials also told the House panel that they needed more to be allocated for the secret budgets citing what they called problems at border areas.

The officials told Athit that they need to use the extra budgets on intelligence gathering and other missions along the borders.

The sources said Athit and other members of the House panel queried the top brass on the regulations governing the spending of the budgets and took note of "all details."

In the past, the military reacted with anger when expenditure under the secret budgets was questioned.

But Permanent Secretary for Defence ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Suwit Chanthapradit said it would be all right if the budgets were cut because "most of the situations have improved."

"There should be no problem if they cut the budgets," Suwit said.

On the MPs' grouse that the public could not monitor the spending, Suwit said: "Secret budgets must be handled secretly".

The permanent secretary said he hoped that members of the House panel would understand how the budgets were spent and explain the matter to their fellow MPs from the respective parties.

On the question whether there would be any conflict between the House panel and Defence Ministry because Athit was its chairman Suwit said: "There should be no problem."

Athit is known to be disliked by military officials, who graduated at the same time as former army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and former Supreme Commander ACM Kaset Rotchananin.

The officials still hold most key commanding posts although Itsaraphong and Kaset have been moved to inactive posts. Itsaraphong's predecessor, Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, Itsarapong and Kaset jointly staged the coup last year partly because Athit was about to be appointed deputy defence minister to purge them.

Foreign Drug Officers Posted at 14 Embassies

BK3011020792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] A number of foreign drug liaison officers have been posted at 14 embassies and the Interpol office in Thailand to coordinate with anti-narcotics authorities in Thailand and other countries nearby, Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) commissioner Pol Lt-Gen Kowit Phakdiphum said yesterday.

The embassies are: Australia, Britain, Canada France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and the United States.

Pol Lt-Gen Kowit said the drug liaison officers have played an important role in exchanging information on drug traffickers, especially when a suspect flees from one country to another. This has facilitated the work of the authorities to follow up on the activities of drug suspects, he added.

In a related development, the NSB chief said he will today lead three members of the Foreign Anti-Narcotics Community of Thailand (FANC) to meet Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

They are FANC chairman Kenneth Kelly, drug liaison officer at the Canadian Embassy, FANC vice-chairman Philip Mathews, Regional Manager of the United Kingdom Drug Liaison Office for Southeast Asia and Romeo Sanga of the Interpol Regional Liaison Office for Southeast Asia.

Official Denies Reducing Missing Persons List

BK0612014692 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 6 Dec 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Interior Deputy Permanent Secretary Ari Wong-arya denies the ministry is artificially reducing the number of people missing during the May 17-20 events.

Mr Ari, who heads a committee to trace the missing, said yesterday the ministry has no vested interest in the issue and has no reason to suppre ss the true figure of people who may have been killed during the crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators.

The ministry has always been "neutral" on the issue and has never tried to increase or decrease the figures, he said. The ministry's figure of 117 missing could rise or fall in line with new information.

The Mahidon University Hotline Centre, which has also been monitoring the figures, said its figure for those missing is 192.

Members of the centre criticised the ministry for allegedly cutting the figure quickly by ruling out cases where there was no evidence to suggest that the people were at the pro-democracy protest from May 17-20. The centre pointed out that at the height of the protest about 150,000 people from all walks of life were at Sanam Luang and Ratchadamnoen Avenue.

The ministry also declared a week ago that the final figure of the missing "will be between 40 and 60" by mid-December. The hotline said the Interior figure is now 54.

Mr Ari said the ministry sent 50 officials to trace the missing at their homes in its latest attempt, which arrived at 117. Representatives from Mahidon University and the Confederation for Democracy are also on the ministry's committee and were satisfied with the figure and the way it was derived.

"Some of the representatives even said the real missing figure should be only about 40," Mr Ari claimed.

The Lawyers Council of Thailand is helping relatives of the May victims to sue those responsible for ordering troops to fire on pro-democracy demonstrators, association president Sak Korsaengruang said yesterday.

Mr Sak said the council is gathering information for the cases, despite the fact that the Constitution Tribunal has ruled that the Amnesty Executive Decree passed by the Suchinda government had effect and that those connected with the incident cannot be sued.

Mr Sak said no action has yet been taken in the judicial branch and the council wants the court to consider if a case can be filed against those responsible. [passage omitted]

Investment Budget Approved for Eastern Seaboard

BK0512035392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 92 p B1

[Text] The Eastern Seaboard Development Committee yesterday approved a Bt80 billion investment budget for the second phase of the Eastern Seaboard development projects.

Included in the second phase are the Mab Ta Phut Port expansion, the construction of two highways linking Bangkok and the Eastern Seaboard and the provision of housing for low income earners.

Supachai Phanitcha?hak, deputy prime minister said the government will invest Bt3.3 biliion to expand the deep-sea port at the Mab Ta Phut Industrial Estate in Rayong province.

The plan is to dredge the port basin to a depth of 18 metres—currently it is 10.5 metres deep—enabling it to handle 100,000 tonne vessels such as crude oil and fertilizer carriers.

The deep-sea port, which has two liquid terminals as well as a general wharf, can only handle vessels up to 50,000-tonnes at present. The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand also plans to build more wharves at the port.

The government will use Bt60 billion from an OECF loan, and revenue from state enterprises, to develop the second phase of Eastern Seaboard, enhance the environment and construct housing for low income earners.

Supachai pointed out that the government has set aside over Bt2 billion of the 1992 fiscal budget for the initial stages of the housing construction. The Bt20 billion project will start next year and is scheduled to be completed in 1996.

Winai Somphong, Transport and Communications minister, said that in addition to the port expansion and residential projects, the government will build another two highways linking Bangkok and the Eastern Seaboard.

Journeys between the Northeast and the Eastern regions are expected to be faster when the two roads are completed.

The four-lane Bangkok-Chonburi highway will be 82 km long and be complete in four years. The government will invite private firms to bid for the contract in Jan 1993.

The second route will cover the 62 km from Bang Pa-in to Bang Phli and also be complete in four years. The Transport and Communications Ministry expects to call for tenders for the contract in Feb next year.

Winai said that the Ministry will also expand the Nakhon Ratchasima-Pak Thong Chai-Kabn Buri-Chachoengsao-Eastern Seaboard highway. The Land Transport Department is currently working on the project and evaluating construction costs.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is also studying the feasibility of Mukdahan-Si Sa Ket-Surin-Nakhon Ratchasima-Eastern Seaboard route. The study will be complete in one year.

The two highways will link the lower Northeastern part of the country to the Eastern Seaboard and become an important gateway to Indochina, Winai said.

In addition, the Transport and Communications Ministry has plans to expand the Bangkok to Phatthaya highway to 10 lanes by 1995, the Bangkok to Bang Pakong route from two to four lanes by 1994, and complete the Bangkok-Chanthaburi-Trat-Rayong road for 1995.

The State Railway of Thailand has also been ordered to speed up the construction of an inland container depot at Lat Krabang district—a distribution centre for the Eastern Seaboard. The SRT will consider whether to invite the private sector to operate the facility.

Phisit Pakkasem, secretary general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, said another three projects—the Nong Ngu Hao Airport, the high-speed train and U Ta-pao airport development—will be included in th? Eastern Seaboard development.

The projects will not only sustain the growth in the region, but also become new gateways to Indochinese countries, he said.

Vietnam

U.S.-UN Military Action in Somalia Examined

BK0912064992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[NHAN DAN article by Dang Quoc Long titled: "Lamentable Famine in Somalia and New U.S.-UN Plan To End the Civil War in the Country"; date not given]

[Text] On 1 December the VOA and BBC reported that after seriously studying the recent U.S. Government proposal to send 30,000 troops to Somalia to ensure safety for the supply of relief aid to the country, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has approved this plan. The world has paid special attention to the recent tense situation in Somalia where more than 350,000 persons have died of famine in the last several months. On the average 500 people have died each day, 50 percent of them children. Moreover, about 3.5 million people of the country's more than 8 million are facing serious famine and will die horrible deaths if no prompt assistance is provided. Fighting between warring factions is continuing in areas of Mogadishu, the capital, obstructing the UN humanitarian relief activities.

In Geneva a conference on famine in Somalia was held recently with the participation of 57 countries and 29 UN organizations and other humanitarian agencies. However, it is unlikely that these efforts by the UN and other international organizations can resolve the unprecedented famine in this country. On 27 November food storage provided by the United Nations ran out. Many rivers and streams were contaminated by bacteria from scattered human corpses. In Mogadishu alone, about 300 persons died each day in the last week of November. Attacks on UN convoys carrying relief aid and food are continuing. About 50-70 percent of the UN food was robbed before the supplies reached the Somalis who needed it. Food and relief aid supplies are being carried out in a cross-fire condition.

It can be said that the civil war in Somalia is in many ways similar to that in Liberia—that is, the war was waged not for any lofty ideals at all. At first, two factions led by Ali Mahdi Mohamet and General Farah Aydid—both Muslims from the Hawiye clan and members of the United Somali Congress Party [USCP]—coordinated and fought against the Siad Barre regime. On 27 January 1991, dictatorial president Siad Barre was overthrown, and Ai Mahdi Mohamet was appointed Somali president. General Farah Aydid strongly opposed this appointment at the time and contended that he should be appointed Somali president because he is the chairman of the USCP and Army units under his command made great sacrifices in overthrowing the Siad Barre Administration.

During this period, many tribes in the country also rose up, including the Issaq Clan in the north which has set up the Somali National Movement. This has added more confusion to the struggle for power in Somalia. At present, the country is facing an anarchic situation and has no central government to manage agricultural production. As a result, production of the main sources of food for this country have been totally stopped.

According to UN agencies, to provide effective relief aid to Somalia, it is necessary to have a strong military presence to ensure safety for the food supply. In his letter to the UN Security Council at its early December 1992 meeting, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali said: The UN Security Council is duty bound to find a solution to this issue and may consider sending a UN force—with a U.S. division as the core force under U.S. command—to Somalia.

On 1 December leaders of the two warring factions in Somalia welcomed this solution. However, a new operation dubbed the "New Desert Storm Operation" in Somalia involving an aircraft carrier and two other warships with various war equipment and facilities will surely create many complicated political and socioeconomic issues for the country.

Analysts contend that efforts should be made to design fundamental measures to help warring factions reach a cease-fire agreement, to stop supplies of weapons to these factions, and to provide a large quantity of food directly to the Somali people. Most importantly, efforts must be made to persuade the warring factions to sit at the negotiation table to discuss a political solution for the country. Only by achieving this task will we be able to help prevent the Somali people from committing genocide.

U.S. Failure To Find Proof of MIA's Reported

BK0912104192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] American experts have finished investigating reports of live sighting of U.S. servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War but have found no evidence that such men existed. A western diplomat who asked not to be identified said on Sunday that U.S. experts recently completed investigating the last 18 high-priority live sighting reports that Washington told Hanoi it wanted to check. According to the diplomat, the truth is that no one in Vietnam [words indistinct] the U.S. Government office in Hanoi in charge of resolving the MIA issue said investigators did not find proof or evidence in some cases that those making the reports have mistaken other foreigners or Vietnamese for Americans. Investigators have visited at least a dozen regions as well as [words indistinct] border areas to which few foreigners have been.

Defense Ministry Delegation Arrives in PRC

BK0812155692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Our country's military delegation led by Minister of National Defense General Doan Khue, which is to pay an official friendship visit to China, arrived in the capital city of Beijing on the afternoon of 7 December.

Attending a solemn welcoming ceremony in honor of our delegation were Senior Lieutenant General Qin Jiwei, minister of national defense, and other high-ranking officers of the Chinese Army. Our country's ambassador in China Dang Nghiem Hoanh, Military Attache Colonel Nguyen Ngoc Lu, and many cadres and personnel of our embassy were also present at the welcoming ceremony.

On the evening of the same day, Chinese Minister of Defense Qin Jiwei organized a reception in honor of the delegation. Our country's military delegation, led by Gen. Doan Khue, held talks with the Chinese military delegation led by Senior Lieutenant Gen. Qin Jiwei on the morning of 8 December.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, sincerity, and mutual understanding and respect.

Office of the National Assembly Issues Communique

BK0812153392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Communique of the Office of the National Assembly"—date not given]

[Text] Tomorrow, 9 December 1992, the ninth National Assembly solemnly opens its second session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. Before attending the session, National Assembly deputies and delegations from provinces and cities under the direct management of the central government met with voters in various localities to solicit views contributed by people of all walks of life to formulate the discussion agenda of the session. The National Assembly Standing Committee, Nationalities Council, and other National Assembly committees and agencies concerned of the National Assembly, the government, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control devoted much of their time to preparing the projected discussion agenda, as well as reports and projects to be submitted to the National Assembly.

On the afternoon of 7 December, National Assembly deputies fully assembled in Hanoi to participate in the second session of the ninth National Assembly.

On 8 December, National Assembly delegations met to contribute views to the discussion agenda and study documents related to the session. In the evening, the National Assembly convened a preparatory meeting in the Conference Hall to adopt the discussion agenda of the session.

Ninth National Assembly's Second Session Opens

BK0912015692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] This morning, 9 December, the Second Session of the Ninth National Assembly opens at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. At this session, the National Assembly will appraise the socioeconomic situation, review the implementation of the 1992 state budget, and discuss orientations and tasks for 1993.

The National Assembly will examine reports on various issues to be presented by the government. These include the issues of implementing the socioeconomic policy toward the mountain regions, capital construction, unemployment and wages, law enforcement, suppression of corruption and smuggling, and state foreign affairs activities.

Also at this session, the National Assembly will discuss and adopt several draft bills on supplementations and amendments to some stipulations of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam, the Criminal Code, and the Law on Criminal Procedure to effectively serve the struggle against corruption and smuggling.

The National Assembly will also discuss a draft bill on supplementing and amending the Law on Land in order to perfect the bill before publicizing it to solicit the people's ideas.

Forestry Minister Named

BK0912055692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Our correspondent reports that this morning, 9 December, the Second Session of the Ninth National Assembly opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

Prior to the session, National Assembly Deputies visited and laid wreathes at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

At this morning's session, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh delivered an opening speech. Afterward, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet reported on the implementation of the socioeconomic development program and on the national defense, security, and state budget situation in 1992, as well as orientations and tasks for these domains in 1993.

Afterward, comrade Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister and chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, on behalf of the government, read a draft bill on supplements and amendments to some stipulations of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam. Comrade Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee, on behalf of his committee, delivered an investigating report on this draft bill.

Also at this morning's session, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet delivered a report recommending that the National Assembly approve the appointment of comrade Nguyen Van Ha, director of the Investigation and Planning Department of the Ministry of Forestry, as minister of forestry.

This afternoon, the Ninth National Assembly continues its session at the conference hall.

Premier's Socioeconomic Report Previewed

BK0912021792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 92 p 26

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet today will present his government's report on economic and social development in 1992 to the National Assembly.

Besides hearing the Government's annual report, the assembly of 395 lawmakers elected in July will vote on several amendments to the Foreign Investment Law promulgated in 1987.

The most crucial amendments involve the duration of land leases, the use of land rent for capital contribution, and across-the-board tax incentives for projects involving foreign capital input.

A source in the National Assembly told BUSINESS POST the duration of land leases under the amended law could be up to 70 years to allow for long-term development projects, such as industrial zones and forest projects.

The amendments were aimed at boosting foreign investors' confidence in undertaking large-scale investment projects in Vietnam, said Prof Nguyen Mai, the vice chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, the agency that licenses-foreign investment projects.

Policymakers also plan to seek the National Assembly's approval to introduce a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) formula for infrastructure projects, particularly roads, bridges, power and seaports.

"This is a mode which is already applied in many countries, but it is quite a novelty in Vietnam, so it will be necessary to gradually perfect it in the process of implementation," Prof Mai said in the latest issue of the semi-official weekly VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW.

Vietnamese authorities would "ensure necessary preferences so that large companies put their money in building and business on a long-term basis, and after that the projects can be transferred to Vietnam," he said.

Another amendment will allow across-the-board tax incentives for all projects with foreign capital, including 100 percent foreign-owned projects.

Until now, the Vietnamese Government has favoured joint ventures with varying degrees of local-foreign ownership receiving different degrees of tax breaks.

"To facilitate wider choice for investors and to attract more investment in the 100 percent form, it is planned ta apply these incentives to all enterprises with foreign-invested capital," said Prof Mai.

Meanwhile, the minister attached to the Government's Office, Le Xuan Trinh, said 1992 had been a relatively successful year for Vietnam on the economic front.

"According to initial statistics, 1992 has ended with relatively comprehensive success of the economy for the first time exceeding the objectives laid out by the National Assembly," the minister said in an interview published in the Army's daily journal on Monday.

Vietnam's gross national product was expected to increase 5.3 percent in 1992, with agricultural output up by 15 percent against a target of 6-7 percent, he said.

Inflation for 1992 was expected at 15 percent, or about 1.5 percent monthly, compared to 70 percent in 1990 and 1991.

"These achievements are very significant since the economy is still in crisis," he said.

The concrete achievements for this year would lend impetus to the development plan for next year, which would focus on stabilising the socioeconomic situation and bringing it "into a new step of development."

While continuing the fight against inflation and improving its macroeconomic management, Vietnam would "strongly develop external economic relations," the minister said.

Japan last month announced the resumption of large-scale development aid to Vietnam, while the US trade embargo on the country is expected to ease as a result of Vietnam's cooperation in accounting for US servicemen still missing after the Vietnam war.

Radio Says Khmer Rouge 'Aim' To 'Return to Power'

BK0912043892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Radio Opinion"]

[Text] According to BBC radio on Monday [7 December], leader of the Khmer Rouge Khieu Samphan said that he would not attend the SNC [Supreme National Council] meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

Mr Khieu Samphan's declaration not to attend the SNC meeting surprised no one because they know too well the Khmer Rouge intentions. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Cambodia, this faction right from the beginning has not honored their commitment. They have not cooperated with UNTAC to speed up the peace process in Cambodia but caused obstacles to the implementation of the agreement.

Seriously still, they attack peacekeepers who are performing their duties. Most recently they kidnapped some UN peacekeepers. On the other hand they carried out land-grabbing activities, threatening and killing innocent people including Vietnamese.

A commentary carried in the recent issue of the paper PHNOM PENH POST has condemned the Khmer Rouge's sabotage of the peace process in Cambodia. Mr Dith Pran, a correspondent of THE NEW YORK TIMES who played the role of the hero in the film "The

Killing Fields", denounced the Khmer Rouge for stockpiling weapons supplied by foreign countries for many years. Radio The Voice of America said that the Khmer Rouge threaten to detain any UN officials who set foot on their controlled areas.

Reality shows that the Khmer Rouge are sabotaging the peace process in Cambodia. Their only aim is to return to power in Cambodia.

British Government Donates Flood Relief Aid

BK0512073192 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 5—The British Government's Overseas Development Administration (ODA) has recently donated the [word indistinct] sum of USD 100,000 for emergency relief aid following severe flooding as a result of typhoon Angela which struck six provinces in central Vietnam late in October.

The aid will be distributed through the British Red Cross and the United Nations disaster relief organsation, and directed primarily to meeting food, clothing and shelter needs in Quang Binh province.

Minister of Heavy Industry Visits Belgium

BK0512141392 Hanoi VNA in English 1403 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 5—A delegation of the Vietnamese Goverment led by Tran Lum, minister of heavy industry, chairman of the Vietnamese section of the Vietnamese-Belgian Inter-Governmental Committee, has paid a five-day official visit to Belgium.

Minister Tran Lum was accompanied by Deputy Minister of Finance Pham Van Trong, and other senior officials from the State Commission of Sciences and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

While in Belgium, the Vietnamese delegation attended the 2nd session of the Vietnamese-Belgian Inter-Governmental Committee. On the Belgian side were Robert Urbain, minister of trade and European affairs, and other official. It also had working sessions with Secretary of State for Cooperation and Development Eric Derydke. It was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Melchior Wathelet.

During the talks and meetings Minister Tran Lum highly appreciated the Belgian Government's reduction of debt for Vietnam. He reiterated Vietnam's wish for strengthening and developing trade, cooperation and investment with Belgium, especially in the fields of infrastructural works, energy, post, transport and communications, agro-aquatic products processing, and oil and mineral exploitation.

The Belgian side reaffirmed that Belgium is prepared to create favourable conditions for its companies to make investment in Vietnam, and the Belgian Government will also consider its assistance to Vietnam in the fields of technology, personnel, training, healthcare and education, as well as in settling Vietnam's debts and improving its relations with the European Community.

The Vietnamese delegation left Brussels on December 3.

Deputy Premier Visits Dac Lac Province

BK0612140992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] On 23-25 November, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh paid a working visit to Dac Lac Province. Accompanying him were comrades in charge of the Ministries of Public Health; Education; Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare; Culture and Information; Child Protection and Child Care; and State Planning and Mr. Stephen (Fohutz), UNICEF director in Vietnam. The deputy prime minister spent a great deal of time visiting establishments at grassroots level to inquire about the local economic development situation, difficulties in providing medical, education, and culture and information services, as well as newly arising local social problems.

Holding working sessions with the people's committees of Dac Lac Province and the districts of Krong Buk and Cu Yut, he emphasized the need to provide better care for the material and spiritual lives of the local people, especially the ethnic minority people and those in former war resistant and new economic areas. He said that when state funding is still limited, the medical, education, and culture and information services at the grass-roots level need to coordinate with local people's efforts for improvements. He also discussed urgent problems that must be solved in Dac Lac and the central highlands, namely the control of malaria, providing training and refresher training for ethnic youths, and strengthening unity among members of the ethnic community.

Nguyen Khanh Speaks at AIDS Seminar

BK0712105392 Hanoi VNA in English 0537 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 7—A two-day national seminar on the social and economic implications of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam was inaugurated on Dec. 3 by a speech from the Vice Premier Mr. Nguyen Khanh.

The semiar, which is being organized by the National Aids Committee, with support from the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) regional project, 'Development Implications of HIV/AIDS' is the first national seminar on HIV and AIDS. The seminar seeeks to address the importance of HIV/AIDS as a factor which could potentially impede Vietnam's development efforts.

The objectives of the seminar are :

1/ to raise awareness of the development implications of HIV/AIDS among government and non-government organisations of Vietnam and,

2/ to promote the development of HIV/AIDS education and behavior change strategies within government ministries, provincial authority and non-governmental organisations.

Mr. Roy Morey, resident representative, UNDP pledged the support of the United Nations system in Vietnam to provide coordinated support to the government in their efforts to prevent the further spread of the virus and provide care and support to those already affected.

Doan Khue Greets Cuban Armed Forces Day

BK0712110992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Congratulatory message from Doan Khue, national defense minister, to General Raul Castro, Cuban minister of revolutionary armed forces, on the 36th anniversary of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces Day—date not given]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Minister, on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, on behalf of all cadres and combatants of the Vietnam People's Army, and on my own behalf, I would like to send to Comrade Minister, and through you, to all cadres and combatants of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, our warmest congratulations.

I am convinced strongly that the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, together with the Cuban people, will overcome all difficulties and ordeals, and achieve many new successes in the cause of national defense and construction of Socialist Cuba. I wish relations of solidarity and friendship between our two peoples and Armed Forces unceasing consolidation and development. I wish Comrade Minister good health, many achievements in your important tasks, and happiness in your life.

My solemn salutations to you, Comrade Minister.

Embassy Spokesman Rejects Phnom Penh Report

BK0812120992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] On 7 December, a spokesman of the Vietnamese Embassy accredited to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia issued the following statement:

In an article carried in the 4-17 November 1992 [date as heard] issue of PHNOM PENH POST, the reporter, Doug Niven, gave misleading information on Vietnamese-Cambodian ties. The spokesman for the Vietnamese embassy accredited to the SNC is hereby authorized to declare that the information is totally untrue.

The joint statement signed by Prince Sihanouk and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam on 25 January 1992 stipulates the guiding principles for ties between the two countries and points out that all outstanding bilateral issues should be settled through negotiations between the Vietnamese and Cambodian governments.

Vietnam fully respects and scrupulously complies with this statement.

Vietnamese-Cambodian relations are based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Vietnam's consistent policy toward Cambodia is to totally respect the independence and sovereignty of Cambodia and to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs.

As a signatory, Vietnam scruplously complies with all the relevant provisions and joins with other countries and all parties concerned in contributing actively to promote the full and scrupulous implementation of the Paris accords on Cambodia.

Premier, Minister Send Messages to Angolan Leaders

BK0412063792 Hanoi VNA in English 0545 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 4—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has sent congratulations to Marcolino Moco, on his appointment as prime minister of the People's Republic of Angola.

In his message Prime Minister Kiet wished for further consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh has also sent congratulations to his Angolan counterpart, Fernando Franca Van- Dunem.

Ministry of Agriculture Reviews 1992 Work

BK0412114592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] A conference was held in Nha Trang on 23 and 24 November by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry to review its 1992 work and to discuss guidelines, tasks, and measures for implementing the 1993 plan, as well as to exchange views in preparation for the central-level conference on agriculture, forestry, and fishery.

This year, the agriculture and food industry sector has fulfilled its tasks in all domains—agricultural production, processing industry, circulation, domestic consumption, imports and exports, and supply of materials in support of production. The sector has also rearranged its organizational structure, changed its management mechanism and agricultural policies, readjusted all businesses, accumulated capital, and turned in part of its revnue to the state budget. Noteworthy is that it has overfulfilled plans for the production of grain and development of marketable farm products.

According to incomplete data, all localities throughout the country have attained nearly 24 million metric tons of grain. This shows an increase of 2.1 million metric

tons over last year and 1.6 million metric tons in excess of plan. In grain production, rice has increased sharply in all three aspects—acreage, yield, and output.

In 1993, the agriculture and food industry sector will continue to accelerate production, expand the market, launch a program to cover hollow land and bare hills with greenery, effectively use all sources of capital in the country, and carry out the program to build a new countryside. The sector will also strive to attain a gross grain output of 24 to 24.5 million metric tons converted to paddy equivalent.

On this occasion, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry presented the government's traveling emulation banners to 13 units in the sector and its outstanding emulation banners to 22 agriculture and forestry services and other units.

Customs General Department Issues Circular

BK0712131192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] The Customs General Department has issued a circular on the implementation of newly-promulgated government decrees and decisions on goods leaving or entering the country.

Regarding baggage tax exemptions for passengers leaving or entering the country under Decree 09-CP, the circular points out: The baggage tax exemption criteria promulgated together with Decree 09-CP apply to Vietnamese citizens and foreign nationals alike. Baggage includes items intended for an individual's daily activities or for the purposes of a trip suited to the length of stay in a foreign country. As for personal effects in the forms of gold, silver, rare metal, precious stones, or foreign currency, they are to be adjusted by regulations governing state foreign currency control.

Regarding those Vietnamese citizens having to make many trips overseas yearly to carry out official duties, separate regulations shall be formulated for them.

Regarding those goods brought or sent home by Vietnamese citizens under labor cooperation programs, specialists, and students on training programs overseas under Decree 10-CP and Decision 96-TTG of the prime minister, the customs service has clearly set the dates of implementation from now until 28 February 1993.

Phan Van Khai Receives Canadian Delegation

BK0712151192 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 7—A delegation of the Canadian International Development Authority (Cida) led by Jim Carruthers, head of the Asian-Pacific Department of Cida, has visited Vietnam to inquire into Vietnam's economic renovation and discuss Canada's overseas development administration (ODA) aid to Vietnam and economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The delegation had working sessions with the State Planning Commission and the ministries and branches concerned.

It was received by Vice Premier Phan Văn Khai. On Dec. 4 the delegation left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City.

World Peace Council Delegation Meets Leaders

BK0812144392 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 8 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 8—A delegation of the World Peace Council [WPC] led by Mr. Chandrasit Yadap and Mr. Ray Steward, respectively vice president and permanent seretary of the council, has paid a working visit to Vietnam.

While here, the delegation paid homage to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

The delegation was received by Vice President Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, who is also president of the Vietnam Union of Peace and Friendship Organizations. It also met with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, and Pham Van Chuong, deputy head of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee's External Relations Department.

The delegation had working sessions with a delegation of the Vietnam Peace Committee led by its President Phan Hien. The two sides exchanged views and discussed measures to strengthen cooperation in their activities and in preparation for the WPC congress to be held next year.

Australia

No Adverse Effect From ASEAN Free Trade Area Seen

BK0912023192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Dec 92 p 19

[Text] The ASEAN Free Trade Area scheme will not adversely affect trade and investment between the region and Australia, according to Australian Ambassador John McCarthy.

Instead, it will bring about more affluence to both sides, he said. It will create more intra-ASEAN economic ties, but these will not affect trade between the region and Australia.

Mr McCarthy's remarks came as a new report on the issue was released, entitled "Australia's Business Challenge: Southeast Asia in the 1990s."

Following is a summary of the report's conclusions.

The high rate of growth in the major economies of Southeast Asia was apparent in the 1970s, and that growth continued throughout the 1980s. For the decade Southeast Asian Gross Domestic Product grew at an annual rate of 5 percent, while the world grew by only 3 percent.

ASEAN economies have weathered the sharp slowdown in the international economy, maintaining average growth rates of 7 percent plus—still enough to double GDP in a decade—while world growth has been negligible.

The region's growth has been led by exports of manufactured goods, transforming the ASEAN economies from primary producers to major manufacturing centres. By 1991, manufacturing contributed well over one-third of GDP and over 40 percent of exports.

Standards of living have improved enormously, with average life expectancy rising from 49 years in 1965 to 63 years in 1991.

The relatively affluent provide an increasingly important constituency for stable consistent economic policies to promote growth: the ranks of the middle class will have swelled from around six million now to over 40 million by early next century.

The main commercial opportunities for Australian firms in Thailand over the next decade will be in infrastructure projects environmental-equipment, processed food and leisure goods.

In the infrastructure sector there is significant potential for Austraiian involvement in the supply of equipment and materials for electricity generation, mass-transit system, port and airport development projects.

Australia's business challenge is to achieve between 34,000 million and 540,000 million baht in exports by the end of the decade; 340,000 million baht would mean holding market share, 540,000 million baht would mean creasing it by 1 percent.

Growth and industrialisation are leading to bigger, more open and more sophisticated markets for a wider range of goods and services which Australia can supply.

Growth and the marked diversity in Southeast Asia present Australia with the opportunity not only to expand exports but also to change the structure of exports giving greater emphasis to value-added manufactures and services.

Australia has assets of immense importance which it brings to the business challenge: proximity, nature resources, high levels of education and training, English language, its citizens of Asian origin, acknowledged diplomatic achievements in the region, a corps of firms with a track record of profitable activities in the region, its internationally advanced research and development base and telecommunications and financial systems, and a substantial foreign aid programme.

Australia has made much progress in fixing problems caused by decades of insularity which had substantially eroded the value of its assets.

Reductions in trade barriers have resulted in a more open and export-oriented economy: productivity on the waterfront and in transport has increased, dramatically so in some instances; public enterprises which dragged down overall productivity growth are in the process of historic reform; inflation has been cut, diplomatic engagement has been strengthened through joint activities in areas such as the establishment of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] and the search for peace in Cambodia, barriers of culture and customs have been lowered as more Australians have visited, done business with, learnt languages of, and married citizens from, the region.

Australia's trade performance with the region since the second half of the 1980s demonstrates that the challenge can be met; exports have risen faster than to any other part of the world, with manufactures and services growing faster than the total and market share has been held.

Southeast Asia today comprises nine very different markets at different stages of development, ranging from Singapore with a per-capita GDP approaching Australia's to the Indochinese economies which are among the world's poorest.

Moreover, the whole of Southeast Asia has a GDP only very slightly larger than Australia's and not much more than 10 percent of Japan's.

East Timorese Demonstrate at Indonesian Embassy

BK0712070692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Canberra's East Timorese community has lit 17 candles outside the Indonesian embassy to mark the 1975 invasion of the former Portuguese colony. Virginia Nichols reports.

[Begin Nichols recording] More than 100 demonstrators vented their anger at Indonesia's record in East Timor and the treatment of captured Fretilin leader Xanana Gusmao. Outside federal parliament they staged a mock massacre and burnt a flag, with one protester coming to grief when a (?Portuguese) flaming flag fell down his shirt front. The group then marched to the Indonesian embassy, where 17 candles were lit to mark (?the years) Indonesia has occupied East Timor. The protectors now want Australia to spend a special envoy to Indonesia to ensure their leader is safe. [end recording]

Committee Slams Government on E. Timor Massacre

BK0812055292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] A parliamentary committee has criticized the government's response to the massacre of civilians by Indonesian troops in the East Timorese capital, Dili, just over a year ago.

The All-Party Committee on Foreign Affairs said Australia's international credibility on human rights issue was damaged by the response to the massacre.

The committee said the incident and its outcome deserved much stronger condemnation. It says that by softening its strongly worded resolution on the massacre drafted by the European Community, Australia had harmed its otherwise praiseworthy reputation on human rights issue.

The committee recommended that Australia support the United Nations move for consultation involving all parties to conflict in the Indonesian Provinces of East Timor and Irian Jaya and the special District of Aceh in Northern Sumatra.

ABC's International Television Service Discussed

BK0312085192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Nov 92 p 19

[By Sue Green in Melbourne]

[Text] MELBOURNE—The doyen of the Aussie airwaves, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), is to launch its television service, Australia Television International, in February.

With it comes corporate sponsorship, a first for the ABC, and accusations that Aunty, as it is affectionately known, has sold her soul to business.

There are guidelines on "cultural sensitivity" too, to ensure that no programmes such as Embassy, the Australian comedy about a diplomatic mission which offended the Malaysian government, are beamed. The service will be beamed via Indonesia's Palapa B2P satellite.

The ABC's Asian television service was given the official nod in September when the Federal Cabinet approved a A$5.4 million (S$5.9 million) start-up grant, to be matched by the ABC.

It is being set up in some secrecy in Sydney and Darwin, where its news and current affairs will be based and from where it will be transmitted.

But the ABC heads will at least, talk about their service. This is more than the executives of Australia's other new Asian television network will do.

It is believed that media tycoon Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings, possibly in conjunction with Cable News Network, is running neck and neck with the ABC to be the first to set up an Australian broadcasting service in Asia.

As the ABC rushes to get its eight to 10 hours a day of programmes ready, it is taking the Packer threat seriously.

The ABC's assistant managing director, Mr Malcolm Long, said in an interview that he could not give details of negotiations with domestic Asian broadcasters to carry the ABC's service on regular free or pay channels. This would help broaden its audience beyond those with satellite dishes.

ABC's new satellite service will be in direct competition with Star in 15 countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Hongkong, China, Brunei, Taiwan, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh.

"We will provide a truly region-wide news service," Mr Long says of the half-hourly updates and one-hour mid-evening news.

"It will be the first-ever TV news and current affairs focused on the region and regional news activities. That will be of great interest."

The hours outside the ABC's own broadcasts will be subleased, for instance, to tertiary education institutions.

"And we have had discussions with other broadcasters who might want to put on a couple of hours a week in their country to be available to expatriates."

Other advantages will be strong business reporting; children's programmes that are "better than almost anywhere else in the world", 10 special Asian documentaries in the first year; and strong programmes drawn from the ABC's collection—Quantum (a science show), Holiday (a travel show), Lateline (current affairs) and The Bush Tucker Man (about Australian bush food), for instance.

Mr Long says Australians will be making the programmes (though regional joint ventures have been mooted) and Australians will report the news through the ABC's Asian bureaus.

But the key to giving it appeal with Asian viewers will be its "Asian values".

These are being instilled in staff through what he calls focus groups, a kind of in-depth market research using people who have experience of or come from countries in the region.

"The programming guidelines are to do with people who work in the service informing themselves of the enormous cultural range of people," he says.

"Every good broadcaster knows what his audience is like and we need to know that too. We need to be aware of religious festivals and holidays and sensitivity in social matters—all these things that are taken for granted within any one country."

Mr Long admits that the ABC is likely to face the same problems as Star in working out just who is watching and using those figures to sell sponsorship: "It poses a challenge that more and more the key to sponsorship is to define key target audiences and to be convinced that those key target audiences can be reached."

For the ABC, those targets will first be the region's hotels, people interested in education, especially in learning English, children and those interested in news and current affairs programmes, although sponsorship of these shows is not permitted under guidelines intended to preserve editorial independence.

The ABC's domestic programmes have no advertising or sponsorship and the battle to maintain that status quo has been hard fought.

Now critics of the decision to allow sponsorship on the Asian service say the door is open to permit it here too.

Certainly, the ABC is making no bones about the opportunities sponsorship will bring Australian companies in the region.

"The conduct of modern commerce s inextricably linked with the media," Mr Long told a Sydney journalism seminar this month.

"Australia Television International will help to re-shape the general economic image of Australia in the region... Our image in Asia is still strongly influenced by the 'mine and farm' view of Australia," he said.

"Through sponsorship messages it will be carrying directly from commercial enterprises, government agencies, tertiary and other institutions information about their businesses and services."

The ABC's new service will be free, although Mr Long says it will not hesitate to sue for breach of copyright if any broadcaster uses it for rebroadcast without paying.

Its future is assured till 1995, under the plan announced by the Federal Cabinet. It is also expected to become self-funding.

Whether a television service for Asia by and about Australia will catch on is unclear.

Even less clear is how the ABC will find out whether it has caught on by measuring who is watching.

But for the ABC, the bottom line is not who is watching, but whether the new service makes money.

If it breaks even, or makes a profit—from its sales of satellite time, sponsorship, its service to domestic broadcasters and by wholesaling programmes—it will be set to become a permanent feature of the region's airwaves.

Fiji

Opposition Supports Unity Government Proposal

BK0912093392 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and the leaders of the mainly Indian opposition parties say they hope the government of national unity proposed by the prime minister last week would have the support of everyone in Fiji.

Opposition leader Jai Ram Reddy and Labor Party Leader Mahendra Chaudhary met Mr. Rabuka today for the first time since his surprise invitation to join the unity government was issued. In a joint statement, the leader said they recognize the process of establishing the unity government would require comprehensive consultations with Indian communities and parties.

The three leaders agreed to meet on a regular basis to develop a clear sense of national objectives which could form a basis of a government of national unity.

Vanuatu

Minister Accuses Japan of 'Disrespect'

BK0912061492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Vanuatu has accused Japan of disrespect following a report that a Japanese ship carrying plutonium is likely to pass between Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. In a statement broadcast on state-run Radio Vanuatu, the natural resources minister, Paul Telukluk, said international waters did not exist between the two island states. He said Japan's plan showed disrespect for the sovereignty and environment of Pacific island nations.

Mr. Telukluk's comments followed a claim by the Greenpeace that the Akatsuki Maru, carrying 1.5 tons of plutonium between France and Japan, was likely to pass between the island states. Other South Pacific nations have already expressed concern over the route of the vessel, which remains secret.